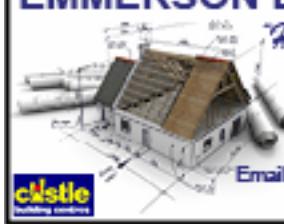


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Figure skaters decked out in Christmas costumes perform at the Minden Arena. See story page 23. Photo by Terrance Gavan.

Pressure forces County to trim budget

Adjustments result in increase to tax levy

By Terrance Gavan

Provincial austerity measures are placing extreme pressure on municipal budgets in Ontario. Ontario's bleak fiscal outlook and increased county spending propelled Haliburton County to slash their original 2012 draft budget by \$215,000.

County Council rolled out the 2012 budget changes during a special meeting on Tuesday, April 3 and councilors passed the 2012 revised budget while giving kudos to county treasurer Laura Janke and department heads for trimming their original budget estimates.

On Tuesday morning, Janke reported that county departments managed to decrease that original budget estimate through major cuts to roads (\$124,000 from capital projects reductions), administration (\$30,000), buildings (\$36,000), social services and housing (\$14,400) and computer upgrades (\$9,900).

The original budget totaled \$12.343 million and the new draft shows \$12.128 million in charges to levy.

Janke told *The Highlander* on Tuesday afternoon that the budget review and call for changes was based on the county's need to rationalize a funding shortfall of \$332,000 due to losses in Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) monies.

"Janke explained that this year's levy is \$12,128,000 compared to the \$11,776,400 levy in the 2011 budget – an

increase of \$350,000. That translates to a 2.99 percent rise in the county levy, but that is softened by a 1 percent growth based on 2011 additions to county assessments. Thus the net increase in the levy passed on through taxes totals 1.99 percent."

"We have some growth this year, and the main cuts we found are on capital and roads," she said.

For their part, the provincial government rationalizes cuts to OMPF with talk of additional uploads to other transfers. Of course, none of that helps council, who are watching OMPF targets

continued on page 2

Murray Fearrey
 County Warden

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of the county.*

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County holds tax increase to two percent

Continued from page 1

drop precipitously on a continuum. But county spending is also being scrutinized and most of the councilors agreed that they must continue to pare expenses moving forward.

"We're spending money faster than the growth of the county," said County Warden and Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey. There was an air of resignation in the council chambers as most councilors agreed that the provincial transfers, based on last week's budget were going to force the county to investigate further cuts to county spending in the coming years.

Councilor and Minden Reeve Barb Reid said that it was time for the county to forge ahead with its own austerity agenda.

"Over the last two years, we've added \$800,000 in costs," said Reid. "We really have to continue to examine if we have someone that leaves [a position] do we need to replace that person? Provincial funding cannot be counted on. And we have to look at the decisions we made over the last couple of years. Next year is going to be brutal."

The Tuesday morning meeting was further complicated by the \$4 million EMS budget. Emergency Services Director Pat Kennedy said that he and Janke had been in contact and on standby over the weekend and on Monday, waiting for the province to release the provincial grant transfers to the county's EMS budget. However, as we went to press, the EMS and Janke were still awaiting an announcement from the Ontario government regarding ambulance service funding.

Kennedy said that since the announcement from the provincial government was not forthcoming, council would have to approve the budget based on last year's allocations.

The assumptions refer to the traditional Land Ambulance Funding Grant, which in previous years has been targeted at 50 percent of the total budget for County EMS. Kennedy explained that the 2012 budget for the EMS was developed using the historical Ministry of Health funding formula plus a one percent

inflationary increase.

Kennedy said that his staff have stuck to council guidelines that earmarked a zero percent increase in the EMS budget from 2011 to 2012. The addition of a new ambulance unit and staff is planned for the fall of 2012. It's necessary to keep response times at rational limits, said Kennedy. The county EMS is stressed by the addition of new housing and increased territory.

"The department will defer the hiring of additional full time staff until such time as the Province announces the Haliburton County 2012 Land Ambulance Grant," said Kennedy.

"We are doing in excess of 280 out-of-county calls per year," said Kennedy. "And we have new lots planned in Bark Lake, Kirsty Lake, and Haliburton Lake, and we need to be prepared for that. My goal is to provide better service in Haliburton County."

"We take the budget and divide the land ambulance budget in half," said Kennedy. "We are going ahead under the assumption that the province will come through with that 50 percent grant."

Both Kennedy and Janke are hoping that the province will come through this week with the expected \$2.08 million 2012 provincial land ambulance grant.

Otherwise, the planned fall addition of that new ambulance team could be in jeopardy.



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Minden Hills



Snowmobile bridge in Minden. Photo by Terrance Gavan.

Maintaining Minden's snowmobile bridge

By Terrance Gavan

Minden's temporary snowmobile bridge, which is still strung across the Gull River, about 100 yards west of the Bobcaygeon Rd. bridge, came under scrutiny at last week's council meeting.

In his report to council, Community Services Director Rick Cox asked council for advice on the conversion agreement – from summer dock to winter bridge and vice versa.

"The snowmobile bridge and dock in Minden was first established as a joint project between the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association (HCSA) and the township," said Cox in his written submission. "The agreement initially stipulated that Minden Hills Township would be responsible for converting the bridge to a dock and for maintenance while it was a dock, and the HCSA would be responsible for converting the dock to a bridge and for the maintenance over the winter season."

However, Cox said that in 2011 he was approached by the HCSA president and asked that the township arrange to have the bridge put in place and just bill the club for the costs.

Cox said his staff had been part of previous conversions, and they did not feel comfortable performing the task unaided.

"I contacted my counterpart in Port Carling and asked them how they approached the task," said Cox. "They hire the dock company (Kropf) on an annual basis to make the conversions."

Cox contacted the dock company and asked them to provide a price tender for both the install and the take down and subsequent conversion to docks.

"The quote came back as \$6,300 before taxes for each conversion," Cox told council.

"They would bring a boom truck and safety boat from Parry Sound to do the work. HCSA advised that they could not afford that price. The roads superintendent, Kevin Hill, agreed that his staff would be able to do it if we rented a crane."

But Hill will not be available until Easter Monday and council suggested that any decision on costing and the roads department commitment to removal and construction be deferred until he returns to offer his advice on the safety and pricing aspects of the job.

CAO Gerry Morrison said that the bridge had to be removed in April and both council and Cox said the issue of tear down was imperative and would proceed apace.

When asked who paid for the removal of the bridge, Cox replied that Minden Hills absorbed that cost and the snowmobile association under terms of the agreement paid for bridge construction costs in late fall.

"We do one conversion each, and we were going to convert it to a dock and maintain it for the summer, and they agreed to the winter placement," he said. "We have had two or three different methods of dealing with it, and this is why we are asking our roads superintendent to look into it this year."

Deputy Reeve Cheryl Murdoch reminded council that the agreement stipulates that HCSA is responsible for putting the bridge in and Minden Hills is tasked with the removal and conversion to docks.

"I would like to see a 50-50 split," said Murdoch.

The final decision on costing will be made after Hill returns at the next meeting of council.

The deferral will not delay the tear down and conversion of the bridge.

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Editorial opinion

Stephen Patrick is off this week.



Trading places

Trade shows can be exhausting. The crowds and endless aisles of captivating products can overwhelm those who attend without clear purpose. Even those who do come with a mission — to buy a new dock, interview builders, or find the perfect gift for the neighbours — can find the bounty a bit much to take in. And that's before having to figure out what to have for lunch.

Imagine then, what it's like to exhibit at one of these events. I was at the Cottage Life show last weekend and ran into many Highlanders who had made the trek from up here to down there in search of new business. Some had left their towns before the break of dawn, trucks loaded with wares and the display cases, banners, roll-up exhibition posters, and tables required to display those wares in the best light. They brought the lights too.

Had they all left at the same time, it would have been like a safari, wending its way down to the big show in the big city, where probably more people pass by a stand in a day than live in all of Haliburton County.

That of course is the reason they go — customers are there. Many exhibitors told me that they couldn't miss it, that they do more business in a weekend than they would normally do in a month or more. To see our entrepreneurs — many in matching uniforms, maintaining constant smiles and working the busy floor to capture precious customers (or at least their scents for later follow-up, in the form of email addresses, meticulously logged as if part of a bird-sighting expedition) — was impressive.

Birds might be a good metaphor for the trade show circuit in general. In a crowded world of me-too products, one must create an attractive nest to entice entry; provide the right notes to generate interest; and ideally, establish a transaction by making a compelling offer at the correct moment. Some used signs and videos, others preferred the out-front handshake and broad smile; one stand lured them in with free popcorn, while others had draws and demonstrations. It's hard work.

There were some truly cool products on offer. My favourite was a set of tandem docks, bridged overhead by a miniature sleeping loft. The whole contraption floats, and you can drive your boat underneath, thereby eliminating the need to constantly attach and remove the cover to protect it from rain. Basically, it's a floating boat house — a very clever dodge around rules against permanent waterfront structures, though our municipalities may have a thing or two to say about its equally-imposing visual impact.

Then there was the up-flush toilet, truly a scientific miracle. Through the use of grinders and pumps (enough said), effluent is expeditiously dispatched to the nearest discharge pipe, even from below grade. The device allows you to locate not just toilets, but any water fixtures, below ground, without discharge plumbing. Ingenious, though be mindful of using such devices if the power goes out — that's a pretty good argument for a backup generator right there. They had those too, and solar panels if you are prepared to wait a bit for your up-flush.

And bunkies; all shapes and sizes of bunkies. Something about a bunkie — it's self-contained nature, it's respectful distance from the house, all that potential in a few square feet — fascinates me. As does the thought of having relatives separated by a bit of distance and darkness when they come to visit. How many could sleep in such a thing? I'd have to get it one of those composting toilets to prevent late night treks to the house. A kitchen, and the relatives could stay in there until after lunch. Miniature universes, those bunkies.

Not unlike our Highlands convoy, full of some of the best products and services in the county, carrying a vision of life here for those who will arrive soon or whom we might coax into arriving later.

Nearly everyone I spoke to said the show had been successful for them: new orders, stacks of prospects, actual sales. Though an expensive and often-gruelling endeavour, attending the Cottage Life Show has become for many businesses an annual ritual to kick off the season. Now, back at home, with early signs of a strong start to our traditionally-busy time of year, all will try to keep the momentum going. Here's hoping the journey pays off.



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Haliburton Highlands – triggers a smile

Dear Editor

It is with surprise and delight that I was billed as the first Haliburton Highlands tourism ambassador (March 29 edition of *The Highlander*). However, it was a little stretch from the truth that I would like to clarify.

At the start of the County of Haliburton staff's tourism ambassador training, it was explained by Barrie Martin (the project consultant) that county staff were to be the first ambassadors and that I was there to sit in on the proceedings because of my initiation of the process, and the lead on the grant preparation that helped to bring this project into being.

I am proud to be among those who believe that the Haliburton Highlands tourism ambassador program will have a huge impact on the retention of guests to our Highlands. There have been over 70 calls from businesses showing a sincere interest in the project and wishing to have the flash customer service training to become an ambassador.

Being delighted that there is such an interest from the business community, I am hoping that full-time and cottage residents will assist us with building the Haliburton Highlands tourism brand. Each resident can do this by helping to refer to the tourism area as the "Haliburton Highlands"; the political boundary of four townships as "Haliburton County"; and the village of Haliburton as "Haliburton Village".

Language consistency will mean everything.

Lastly, my hope is that whenever the "Haliburton Highlands" flows from your lips, it triggers a broad smile truly demonstrating to those listening that it is a joy to work, live, and play in the Haliburton Highlands."

Sally Moore
Haliburton Highlands

Reeve definitely not a doormat

Dear Editor:

When I entered the political arena, I understood I'd be opening myself up to criticism from anyone who had an opinion. Technology is a wonderful thing; we have the opportunity of criticizing on-line anonymously through blogs. We can, in an instant, send a letter to the editor. There seems to be no need to conduct research or gather facts. Why bother to phone your council member(s) for clarification when you can shoot from the hip instead?

I have grown rather thick-skinned over the past five-plus years as a member of the Minden Hills Council, so most things roll off my back. I did, however, take note of a term used in a letter last week by Melanie Sedgwick criticizing my support of the efforts of the Haliburton ATV Association to open the Haliburton County Rail Trail May 1 instead of June 1.

Ms. Sedgwick used a term in her letter that I'd never heard before. She described me as a "hollaback girl". So, naturally, I googled the term and here's the information that came back at the top of the page from urbandictionary.com:

"A girl that is willing to be treated like a doormat or booty call." As Ms. Sedgwick and I don't know each other, I'm not sure on what knowledge she makes this judgment. People who do know me are probably holding their sides trying to contain their laughter. Describing me as a "doormat" is not likely in the top 10 characteristics associated with me and "booty call"?... alas (sigh)... I'm just a little long in the tooth for that description.

My support of ATVs on the rail trail May 1 is because I believe ATVers bring tangible economic benefits to the county and it doesn't make sense for Haliburton County to have a different

opening day than our neighbours in the City of Kawartha Lakes, where most of the out-of-county tourism visitors come from. I am not an ATVer, but I do recognize that ATVers are a significant slice of the tourism pie. It may not be my recreational choice, but it is the choice of many and my job at County Council is to facilitate economic development, which means removing barriers to tourism.

The MNR and the City of Kawartha Lakes open their trails on May 1. County Council recently voted to open the trail May 14 this year, which is an improvement from June 1, but still out of sync with our neighbours, which means riders coming from outside the county have to turn around when they get to Haliburton County before May 14. This means our restaurants, gas stations, accommodators, and other businesses lose out. Can we really afford to turn people away in our shoulder season when most businesses would welcome the business?

Ms. Sedgwick is also concerned about "side-by-side" ATVs. These vehicles are virtually indistinguishable from a traditional ATV. Instead of handle-bars, they have a steering wheel. Instead of a saddle seat, they have a bench or bucket seats. They are the preferred choice of senior riders and families with children. They are marginally longer and wider than conventional ATVs, which gives them more stability. The Eastern Ontario Trail Network allows "side-by-sides" on their extensive trail network. They are hardly "kinda dangerous" as Ms. Sedgwick claims.

We are blessed with much space in this county and surely we can accommodate all interests.

Barb Reid, Reeve
Township of Minden Hills

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Box 1024, Haliburton Ontario K0M 1Z0
705-457-2900

Publisher
Bram Lebo
bram@haliburtonhighlander.ca

Editor
Stephen Patrick
stephen@haliburtonhighlander.ca

Sales Manager
Walt Griffin
walt@haliburtonhighlander.ca

Production Manager
Heather Kennedy
heather@haliburtonhighlander.ca

Reporter/Photographer
Terrance Gavan
gav@haliburtonhighlander.ca

Contributing Writers
Will Jones, Victoria Ward

Office Manager
Louise Ewing
louise@haliburtonhighlander.ca



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Letters to the Editor

Condos bring growth

Dear Editor:

Doom and gloom have appeared recently in some of the letters on local Haliburton affairs regarding town site home building.

"The condos are coming! The condos are coming!" seems to be an increasing cry from some of the local burghers.

Indeed, a mushrooming high-rise is now thrusting its climbing levels from the very shore of downtown Head Lake and many a cherished view of the lake now seem in danger of occultation for some of the long-time town dwellers.

Sad, but unavoidable: this is how settlements grow, pushed along by the dreaded demographic explosions. Toronto itself started with one high-rise building along the Lake Shore and now, look at it! Not many generations ago, clip-clopping from Yonge Street to Parkdale and back in order to acquire a clutch of new-born chicks probably took the better part of a long and lazy afternoon.

Super highways and fast cars are increasingly bringing added masses of urbanites to recreation areas, including the Haliburton Highlands where, aristocrat wannabes with large disposable incomes, they will fill up lake shores and old farm land with their modern "cottages".

Condo towers around Lake Kashagawigamog are just around the corner.

As for "developed" farm land, once the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) is done for, the discussion might well switch to some of the best farm lands between Haliburton and West Guilford, for example, as to whether the new suburbs built there should be amalgamated to one or the other town.

And so, we will end up, through the ministrations of pols and developers safely encastled within the Greater Ontario Towns Catchment Harmonized Area (GOTCHA).

Charles Lutz
Haliburton

Don't kill green energy

Dear Editor:

After what Haliburton County has gone through with regards to the possibility of an open-pit uranium mine, I am surprised that our representative Laurie Scott is firmly behind Bill 42 to stop green energy in the Province of Ontario. In the March 15 edition of *The Highlander*, where *Our representative writes*, I am surprised at how out of touch she is with the people in Haliburton County and the many initiatives to implement green energy in the county. To say that, "Unfortunately the government doesn't seem to put the same weight on rural voices and their concern for human and animal health" is a true statement, but does not change our mind about the need to move forward to renewable sustainable energies.

I agree that huge wind farms need to be looked at for the impact to health and animal welfare, as this is a problem of huge centralized power grids versus smaller community-based

grids. Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is used to controlling all the energy needs of the province and will not give this up easily. It is only our voices demanding other alternatives that will stop the use of dirty coal, oil, gas and uranium being used to power our province.

There are many different ways that we could power our province without such huge long-term impacts to the environment and to our health. There are many different designs for windmills that would have less impact on humans and birds. I don't think the bird issue is totally fair as thousands of birds are killed every year by flying into glass. There are many innovative ideas out there of how to use the sun, the wind, the moon, and the warmth of the Earth that could be used in Haliburton County and the rest of Ontario.

For example, there is a company in Norway that is researching spray on solar windows!

Imagine smaller grids and independent small towns as well as small windmills and solar for homes. This is out of many people's reach right now because we are tied to a huge

Awaiting the verdict for historic theatre

Dear Editor:

One of Kinmount's treasures may soon be *Gone with the Wind*. In the near future, Highlands Cinemas opens its doors for its 33rd (and possibly final) season. Threat of closure looms from film companies' plans to cease production in 35mm format at the end of summer 2012, thus producing movies in digital format only. The cost to convert is phenomenal. Is it a viable venture for owner Keith Stata, who shares this digital dilemma with all independent theatre owners? Keith will declare *The Verdict* following results of his 2012 season.

Highlands Cinemas is not just a typical movie theatre. It is also home to an astounding movie museum. Each year, from May to October (in a town with a population of around 300), Highlands Cinemas plays first run movies and boasts annual attendance in excess of 55,000.

Now *That's Entertainment!*
If you've been to Highlands Cinemas, you've experienced the *Legend* of this unlikely building

tucked away in the forest. You've been *Witness to The Incredible Hulk* of movie memorabilia wrapped in a *Labyrinth* leading to five themed theatres.

Never been to Highlands Cinemas? You may want to *Seize the Day* sometime this season. Treat yourself to a *Fantastic Voyage* with a night at the movies, a *Night at the Museum*, and most definitely *A Night to Remember*.

Will the *Network of Big Business* triumph with monopoly? Will Kinmount see *The Last Picture Show*? Without a *Shadow of a Doubt*, Kinmount cannot afford *The Sting* of such a loss. Though the present situation is *Rocky*, if the season goes well this *Lone Star* may not become *The Departed*. You can *Help* by attending Highlands Cinemas to support this one-of-a-kind creation that put Kinmount *Someplace Over the Rainbow* with *A Touch of Class and Fame*.

Whatever the outcome, since *Diamonds Are Forever*, Highlands Cinemas will certainly *Shine in Glory* in *Hearts and Minds, From Here to Eternity*. Fingers crossed – wishing and hoping to *Ever After* "see you at the movies!"

Lynne Kilby
Kinmount

The Outsider — Plans best left unsaid

"I love it when a plan comes together."

Ah, those classic words spoken from between cigar chomping teeth by Colonel John 'Hannibal' Smith, leader of *The A-Team*, no less. The TV show was one of my favourites as a boy and I will carry with me the catch phrases of Hannibal, Face, Murdoch, and BA to my grave.

The trouble is the chance to use such catch phrases comes along so infrequently. You have to jump at the chance when you can. I tell you this because so often these opportunities pass me by, but at a council meeting recently, Hannibal's hallowed words sprang to mind.

As I sat listening to a consultant spell out his findings from reports, surveys, interviews, meetings... I was doing my best to remain interested in Dysart's Municipal Cultural Plan. It's not that I think ill of the plan itself, on the contrary, I believe it to be a good move. It's just that consultants, presentations, and pontificating really get me down.

My mind wandered. My attention drifted in and out of the presentation. I thought of other things.

'Pity that Aniž closed down, wonder what'll happen to the building?' I mused to myself.

"Dysart has an amazing collection of cultural assets..." blah blah went the consultant.

'Wonder if the trout have started biting yet, a fishing trip's in the offing...' thought I.

The consultant's voice butted in again: "... but we have high unemployment and the need to create jobs. The cultural sec..."

'Did I really hear on the radio that they are legalizing

prostitution in Ontario? Wow, didn't see that one coming.'

The drone of the consultant, once more: "Just how do we define culture. What does it mean to us? And how..."

And then it hit me.

The fishing would be best in Algonquin!

And then it hit me again.

Maximize our cultural assets, create new jobs, make good use of one of Haliburton Village's most prominent, and now sadly empty, buildings.

We could open a brothel in Aniž!

Now, I don't know whether the cultural plan steering committee would agree with this being a cultural asset, but prostitution being 'the oldest profession' has in my opinion been part of culture or cultures for a long, long time.

A brothel would provide jobs.

A brothel would attract tourists. Think advertising slogans like 'Little Brothel in the Highlands' or 'Loving in Lakeland'. How about 'Barefoot Tours in the Bush'?

A brothel would aptly demonstrate our true cultural diversity.

And, a brothel might, if the odd mistake were made, even contribute new residents to our lovely county.

It's a win win situation. We'd be attracting a new type of tourist to the county. While the wives of snowmobilers and fishermen who already visit annually would now come along too – to keep an eye on their hubbies! That's double the rooms rented, double the meals eaten, and quadruple the souvenirs purchased.

We could install swing doors and a piano in Aniž, like an

electric grid and renewable energy is very expensive for a sole homeowner. Why do we need nuclear energy here in Haliburton County? Its time for innovation, conservation, and imagination to move forward.

Bill 42 is stopping the move forward and giving unreasonable reasons for not using the wind as a source of energy. I hope that Ms. Scott talks to the many groups and people that know that we have to go to renewable sustainable energy and asks for their suggestions. We all have to work together to solve our huge energy problem that we face right now. PR arguments that don't stand up to scrutiny and supporting the system we have right now is not going to solve the very real problems we face to have renewable, sustainable, and affordable energy.

Let's talk and find solutions that work. In the meantime, don't kill green energy in Ontario with Bill 42 and hold us back from what we inevitably must do.

Darlene Buckingham
Tory Hill



By Will Jones

old-style saloon bar. Our ladies of easy virtue would hang out of the upper storey windows, their bodices draped in shawls just like in the old Western movies. Only they'd be waving to the hunting parties as they set out into the bush, sorry the forest, rather than the posse off to catch an outlaw.

And, as if the idea weren't already genius enough, who owns the building in question? Our very own Dutch entrepreneur. Now, I'm not for one moment inferring that he has any experience of brothels, but he's Dutch, right? And I presume has been to Amsterdam. He is of a nationality most liberal in ideals and experimentation. I see him as executive consultant.

This revelation came to me as I dozed through the presentation. "Goddamit," I thought, "I love it when a plan comes together!" It was then I realized that I was standing and everyone in the room was looking at me. "Did I just say, 'I love it wh...'"

The Reeve, assembled councilors, consultant, and members of the public frowned and answered in unison, "Yes".

Hannibal's catch phrase melted from my mind and another sprang forth. The one growled by Hannibal's erstwhile companion BA Baracus.

"Shut up fool!"

County news



Tourism organizations team up

By Terrance Gavan

Last week (March 29), Ontario's Highlands Tourism Organization (OHTO) called on local tourism stakeholders to join with Haliburton County Tourism and the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce to participate in a four-hour tourism packaging seminar.

Over 30 Haliburton Highlands tourism stakeholders and individuals responded to the novel initiative and sat down in the Wild Moose dining room to share ideas at the seminar led by team leaders Barrie Martin of Yours Outdoors and Trish Manning of Manning Consulting Group in Port Sydney.

The large and enthusiastic turnout surprised both Manning and Martin, who said that similar intro seminars undertaken in Hastings were met with lukewarm response.

"We're very pleased to see so many people out here today," said Manning. The OHTO tourism sector includes Haliburton Highlands on the west, Comfort Country and Land o' Lakes in the south, Hastings in the middle, and the Upper Ottawa Valley and Ottawa Valley South on the eastern edges of the tourism district.

The introductory seminar covered a variety of vacation packaging templates, but the intrinsic goal was to alert local stakeholders to the value of targeted marketing and the broad cooperative tourism movement, which has been expanding over the last decade.

The OHTO management engaged Martin and Manning because of their solid tourism marketing credentials and their outside-the-box visioning.

"We have engaged Yours Outdoors and Manning Consulting Group to tailor the workshops to the unique needs of the Haliburton Highlands region," said the letter addressed to

stakeholders in Haliburton Highlands. "They will share their extensive, hands-on experience in the creation, implementation, and promotion of successful tourism packages with you."

The introductory meeting is just a precursor to a series of OHTO packaging seminars that will be rolled out next month. (Day-long seminars are slated for this area on April 18 and April 25, and will run from 8:30 am to 4 pm.)

Manning and Martin stress that success in tourism marketing today hinges upon selling both the sizzle and the steak. And yes, that's a segue to all-inclusive packages that look to mix and match area businesses in non-competitive symbiotic packaging. A big part of this tourism push stresses a non-combative marketing strategy that sees all stakeholders working together to provide visitors with an amiable and relaxing introduction to all of the areas' wonders.

The stakeholders were asked to provide individual input while Manning and Martin jotted down the ideas.

Manning's curt reminder about what constitutes good marketing is located on her web page. "Tourism is a multi-faceted, complex industry that is facing incredible challenges to develop and retain market share within the highly-competitive global market. Tourists have become increasingly knowledgeable and are, in many cases, more interested in an experience than in a destination itself."

Martin told the stakeholders that while many cottagers here in the Highlands still come to a "destination" to ride big tubes behind boats, there are vast untapped resources of day-trippers or weekenders that are looking for something different than a day on the beach.

"Success in tourism and business depends on using a strategic approach to identifying key target market opportunities, then developing, marketing, and delivering high-quality, unique, innovative products and experiences that the consumer is looking for," says Manning.

"We have 30 businesses represented in Haliburton Highlands and we could potentially have about 50 businesses

delivering high-quality services," Martin told the enthusiastic crowd made up of artisans, shop owners, restaurants, and hosteries. "We just need to look at ways of bringing them together. OHTO is looking for packages right now to feature on their website (located at ohto.ca)."

Martin stressed that OHTO is willing to promote great and innovative ideas on their website and in their print and trade show marketing.

"Trish and I are excited," says Martin. "We've done a lot of these workshops across the province and we're getting good response."

Molly McInerney of Molly's Bistro in Minden says that when people come into her shop she always points them toward the Minden Riverwalk and she is rarely at a loss when her customers ask her about other areas of interest.

And as a Rotarian, McInerney adds that the Minden Rotary and Places for People have teamed up to reinstate the renowned Highland Yard running race. From Molly's Bistro to local organizer, many hats are worn in cottage country and she told the audience members that they should always be seeking ways to keep those tourists here, even if it's for an ice cream at Kawartha Dairy.

Karen Frybort, the manager of McKecks in Haliburton, said that one of her priorities is to get all of her young summer staff on board with the promotion of the Highlands and many of the interesting sights, sounds, and shops that make this area so dynamic.

"My agenda is to inspire the young people that work as part of the McKecks team," says Frybort. "I have to know what's out there." She encouraged all of the people at the meeting to share and collaborate.

For those stakeholders – everyone who relies on tourism for a living – who are interested in pursuing these opportunities further?

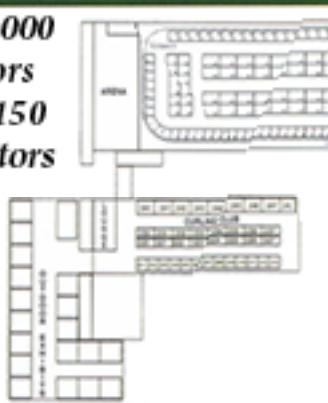
The April 25 and 28 hands-on, full-day workshops are designed to assist you in creating market-ready packages with other tourism businesses and operators.

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Haliburton County's Hot Reads

The following are the top 5 fiction and non-fiction titles as requested at the Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) for the week of April 2 – April 8, 2012.

HCPL's TOP 5 FICTION

1. *Before I Go To Sleep* by S.J. Watson
2. *Death Comes To Pemberley* by PD James
3. *Down the Darkest Road* by Tami Hoag
4. *The Far Side of the Sky* by Daniel Kalla
5. *11/22/63* by Stephen King

HCPL's TOP 5 NON-FICTION

1. *Under An Afghan Sky* by Mellissa Fung
2. *The Wealthy Barber Returns* by David Chilton
3. *Steve Jobs* by Walter Isaacson
4. *Something Fierce* by Carmen Arguille
5. *From This Moment On* by Shania Twain

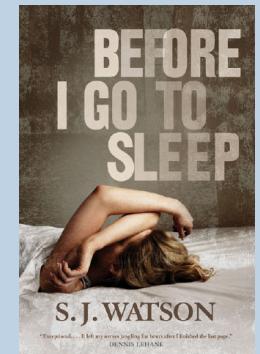
It is always interesting to compare the differences between what is popular in fiction and what is popular in non-fiction. While our top fiction list is typically dominated by American and international best sellers, it has consistently been made clear that when it comes to non-fiction, our library patrons flock towards titles by Canadian authors.

Perhaps this is because true accounts by Canadians are more relatable or more relevant to the lives of other Canadians. A title new to the non-fiction list is *Under The Afghan Sky*, another Evergreen shortlist title that has recently become very popular. It is the true story of a Canadian journalist kidnapped in Afghanistan. These kind of true accounts from journalists are a dime a dozen,

but this particular title is especially compelling because the author Mellissa Fung is such a recognizable face for Canadians, regularly appearing on CBC News and *The National*. It's hard not to feel inherently connected to a terrifying true story when it is written by such a familiar figure.

Library News

Get ready for the Easter bunny with kids programming at the Haliburton County Public Library. Join us for crafts, stories and other fun activities on Saturday, April 7 at 10:30 am in the Minden branch and 1:30 pm in the Dysart branch.



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Highlander arts

Jim Cuddy headlines fifth Forest Festival

Blue Rodeo frontman leads an all-star cast of troubadours

By Terrance Gavan

Some dynamite bluegrass and blues, Latin blues, a blue night sky, and a member of Blue Rodeo are set to rock your world in Haliburton Forest this August.

In fact, if you're a real blues aficionado, you might want to invest in some blue-tinted contacts, the better to blend with the azure theme of this year's Haliburton Highlands Forest Festival slated for August 15-19.

Sean Pennylegion is the coordinator of this year's festival and he was appropriately apoplectic while announcing his dizzying cast at a Kozy Korner presser last Friday.

"The talent assembled for our 2012 season follows in the tradition that the Forest Festival has established over the past five years of offering outstanding shows," said Pennylegion. "This year we have no fewer than four 2012 Juno nominated acts in the line-up."

Cuddy of course is the most distinguished of the performers and no, he won't be ripping up the Haliburton Forest's Bone Lake amphitheater with his buddies from Blue Rodeo.

Instead, a small triangle etched from the Jim Cuddy Band, a side project that the popular Canadian icon

started 13 years ago, will perform. The Jim Cuddy Trio consists of the eponymous leader, talented guitarist – and a legend in his own right – Colin Cripps and fiddler Anne Lindsay.

Cripps and Cuddy need no introduction. Lindsay borrows on her cult status – she can bring it folks – and Forest Festival faithful may remember her from her twin bill appearance at the festival in 2009.

This year's line up comes replete with a Highlands Opera Studio excerpt concert. The Highlands Opera Studio is an integral part of the Highlands Summer Festival and the excerpt concert will open the Forest Festival on the singularly stunning floating stage at the Bone Lake amphitheater on Wednesday, August 15 at 8 pm. Cuddy appears on Thursday on the same floating stage at Bone Lake.

On Friday, Irish eyes will be smilin' when fabulous tenor John McDermott hops onto the floating docket (8 pm) with Jason Fowler and George Koller. McDermott is equally at home in Boston or Toronto, while Fowler is a popular Toronto singer and songwriter who doubles as McDermott's band leader. In fact, Fowler appeared with Cuddy Trio's Anne Lindsay at the 2009 Forest Festival.

Hilario Duran and Jane Bennett Quartet will be performing on Saturday at the Haliburton Forest Logging Museum at 2 pm. Their gig is based on their Juno nominated album *Cuban Rhapsody* with Bennett on flute and sax and Duran pounding the piano. Duran often performs in Toronto fronting his 20-piece Latin Jazz band.

On Saturday night at the Logging Museum, Amanda Martinez continues the Latin theme that features her

fusion vocals mixing Afro-Cuban beat with Mexican folk music. Pennylegion notes that Martinez performed at the 2010 FIFA World Cup, the Montreal Jazz Festival, and the renowned Blue Note in New York City. Her quintet consists of guitarist Kevin Laliberte, Drew Briston on bass, Chendy Leon on drums, and trumpeter Alexander Brown. Laliberte and Briston are members of the Sultans of Swing and performed at last year's Forest Festival.

On Sunday afternoon at the Logging Museum (2 pm), the famous Bebop Cowboys will bring their unique blend of jazz and country to the festival. The Cowboys are led by guitarist Steve Briggs with Prairie Oyster's John Adames on drums. Burke Carroll (Justin Rutledge and George Fox) is on steel guitar. Bassist Dennis Pendrith (Bruce Cockburn), and fiddler Drew Jurecka (Jeff Healey's band) round out the quintet. And as if that weren't enough? The Bebops will be joined by special guest Russell deCarle, the fabulous frontman and lead singer of Prairie Oyster.

And wrapping up the musical romp on Sunday night (8 pm) is The Suzie Vinnick Trio with a special blend of blues, bluegrass, and stunning guitar riffs.

Vinnick, who appeared at The Northern Lights Pavilion recently with the Marigolds, is a virtuoso and a six-time winner of the Canadian Maple Blues award.

She is joined by Rick Fines, a talented blues guitarist who has taught blues classes at the Haliburton School of the Arts and Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. Vinnick and Fines are joined by Roly Platt on harmonica.

For tickets and other information visit theforestfestival.com.

State of the Arts



Spring rights

In Paris 1913, composer Igor Stravinsky's premier of the *Rite of Spring*, a collaboration with Ballet Russes, caused a riot with critics claiming, "The pagans on-stage made pagans of the audience." Today, the

By Victoria Ward

audacity of those artists is still an inspiration and it should be. Turn the clock forward 99 years and instead of provocation and genius we have closures and censors.

In the last month, Vancouver has seen the closing of the Vancouver Playhouse, the closing of the historic Ridge Theatre, the end of the Siminovitch Prize to theatre artists, and a much-beloved public art piece slated for the chopping block. There are theories as to why these events are happening and why all at once.

The most poignant of these was the op-ed piece in the *Toronto Star* by Canadian Stage's artistic and general director Matthew Jocelyn. He puts the blame squarely on the arts community in general. It is a failure of funding bodies, of audiences, of artists, of the media, and the lack of national vision. He believes that the closing of the 49-year-old Vancouver Playhouse could be a canary in a coal mine. If such a much-loved and storied institution such as the Playhouse shuts its doors, what might be next?

I have written about the chill the arts community in this country feels several times in this column. I have witnessed controversial projects get their funding revoked; artist studios in Toronto sold to condo developers; commercial galleries close, public galleries pulling back on how many exhibitions they have in a

year, and less funding going toward those exhibitions; the arts councils shifting their focus away from working artists to academic candidates; shipping programs that aided artists to move their work across the country cancelled; and the Internet refocusing audiences in a way that has made the art world play catch-up.

Traditional art audiences are aging and the art world has done little to encourage younger supporters to fill these shoes. The private sector was supposed to save us, and some corporations have definitely jumped into that void, but the economy makes their role very fragile. Private sponsorship can be unreliable and is colliding with a generation not weaned on galleries, ballet, or opera. They also are colliding with subsidies increasingly impossible to secure – it's a perfect storm gathering in the Canadian art world.

What happened? Did we get comfortable? Or are we as apathetic about our art infrastructure as many people are about politics?

Being an artist in Canada is a complex thing; we are able to actually eek out a living if lucky. When you think about our population and that we only have a few major urban centers, we do pretty darn well comparatively. A tiny hole-in-the-wall art show can attain national attention thanks to the diversity of our writers and broadcasters. But we feel small and that is because regardless of how national we may become, a best-selling novel in this country really only means about 5,000 copies. We can make a living, but not a good living.

This week's double whammy of provincial and federal budgets came with mixed messages. We are scaling back our funding to larger institutions, but are keeping ideas like *The Canada Council for the Arts* intact.

In fact, the Council went so far as to praise the federal budget only hours after its release by emailing us a declaration of that intent. Perhaps a tad overzealous in its effusiveness, the declaration could also read as a huge sigh of relief. "We weren't axed, it's a triumph!" it seemed to be saying. Such is the state of the arts in this country.

What is the problem then? For one thing, we need the art going public on our side. Artists have to continue a dialogue with the public that fosters our independent spirit while encouraging an attitude toward us that is not based on the stigma that we are parasites. All sorts of industries get subsidies, not just the arts.

In any case, I believe we subsidize the culture, not the other way around. Most importantly, the arts sector employs people. No one in our society takes a pay hit the way an artist or art worker does. No one would do their job for such little money (except perhaps those who work in the beleaguered environmental movement).

We help taxpayers experience the arts with little reward. Our value goes beyond the bottom line. It is time that we acknowledged this and set the agenda instead of following one made for us.

The fearlessness that those collaborators demonstrated on a Parisian stage all those years ago is testimony to the survival of art; the *Rite of Spring* is now considered not only an important piece of artwork, but a significant art event. It's a symbol of courage and audacity. We need both to be artists.

Culture should reside in the hearts of people and it is artists who can take it there, through hell and back if needed.

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County news

Clear Lake fight continues

Challenging times for MNR and council

By Terrance Gavan

Shorelines in the Haliburton Highlands have long been a hot topic of discussion. With the current battle concerning the Ministry of Natural Resources' (MNR) proposed changes to the Clear Lake Conservation Reserve, the delicate issue of lakefront planning has been brought to the forefront of discussions.

At the regular meeting of County Council last week (March 28), approximately 30 visitors greeted Haliburton County councilors and MNR spokesman Craig Dodds.

The land in question is located on the northern reaches of Algonquin Highlands and the MNR is looking to bulwark environmental restrictions in the reserve, which is a popular nature destination for cross country skiers, hikers, snowmobilers, boaters and fishermen.

Back on February 9, the MNR announced – in a preliminary management statement – that they were planning to expand the 1,300-hectare reserve and increase restrictions. Those recommendations included prohibiting use of logging trails for motorized recreational use (snowmobiles and ATVs), prohibiting the caching of boats and canoes, and the abolition of trail grooming on existing cross country and snowshoe trails. MNR called for an open house on February 16 and it was sparsely attended – cottagers and residents say that it was due to insufficient notice.

A subsequent open house on March 10 drew 140 people and 112 signatures on a petition addressed to MPP Laurie Scott and Natural Resources Minister Michael Gravelle.

No MNR representatives attended that March 10 meeting, but the meeting and petition prompted substantive action from the ministry.

The MNR proposals came under fire again at last week's council meeting. Cottagers and local trail groups are now demanding that the ministry address their concerns over proposed new shoreline and road allowance allocations, boat

caching, and limitation and eradication of public trails.

Dodds says that the MNR is staking out these changes in the interest of "biodiversity" management.

Some people who have cottages in the reserve and others who utilize the venue for various forms of recreation are concerned that while the objective is sound, the recommendations are draconian.

Robert Lee and Jim Redner of the Friends of the Clear Lake Cottagers' Association were particularly vocal about how the changes are going to affect their access to the park.

Lee said the trail – Clear Lake Portage – to his family's cottage, which he travels to by ATV, acts as his access road. Lee asked Dodds how he was expected to get from the car to his cottage if the province limits ATV access on portages, shoreline road allowances, and some trails.

Lee also said that caching of boats [the practice of leaving canoes stored upside down on shorelines] has been happening for years, and he mentioned that carting boats in every time they visited their cottages would not be practical.

He also said that cached boats significantly reduce the risk of bringing in invasive species of fish, acknowledging that transfer of unwanted marine species is largely the result of visitors who cart their boats in for day trips and excursions.

Dodds did tell council that there might be room to reconsider some of the recommendations.

"We're looking at a system that will allow boat caches," said Dodds. He added that the MNR was willing, because this debate has escalated on a broad scale, to extend consultation on the proposals for the reserve. "We'll be accepting comments until April 25," said Dodds. "We must review and consider all comments received."

He added that their major consideration is "managing biodiversity" and to ensure that certain species of wildlife and fauna in the reserve are "protected forever."

Other suggestions in the MNR plan include a ban on any future hydro line construction and the elimination of motorized winter trail grooming.

Dodds stressed that there was no plan to eliminate all snowmobiling, but the plan calls for motorized access to lakes and certain approved trails only.

The vast majority of the reserve is in Algonquin Highlands

and its Deputy Reeve, Liz Danielsen, was particularly concerned about what the new designations imply for ratepayers (Reeve Carol Moffatt was not at the meeting).

She said that Algonquin Highlands "looking for some clarity with regards to the trails," including access agreements and what lands will be reverting to the crown.

Danielsen said the issue of shoreline road allowances in front of the cottages is an important discussion point, because those allocations will have an impact on ratepayers in the township, especially those who are on the lake. She maintained that under current agreements those shoreline roads are the property of the township.

Lee, speaking as a property owner and a member of the Friends of Clear Lake, said that these recommendations fly in the face of original land promises.

"As a property owner on Clear Lake, we were assured that the existing uses would not be changed," said Lee, who was polite but clearly upset. "In 1997, I used a four-wheeler on the portage – and I am speaking for a majority of the property owners – and I polled the owners before I came here, who agree that the portage from Big Hawk to Clear Lake is our access..."

He told council that under the terms of use proposed by the MNR, access would be cut off and they would be subject to fines if they drove their ATVs down that portage to their cottages.

"I have used that trail for 35 years. The Clear Lake Portage is not a nature walk. We clean up the garbage every year and we treat Clear Lake with respect.

"We have had rights for 30 years and we want to keep Clear Lake as pristine as it is.

"There are 12 property owners on it, and our biggest concern is why the township is giving up shoreline allowances," said Lee.

Danielsen said that clearly there has to be some clarification provided by MNR to Algonquin Highlands. Council considered those allowances and other significant points pertaining to access and freedom.

Warden Murray Fearrey urged Dodds to take the feedback back to his superiors and consider all of the recommendations made by petitioners.

Warden decides split vote for Rail Trail access

By Terrance Gavan

It is fitting that a fifty-fifty proposal on four-wheelers ended in a three-way tie. Because three dates, June 1, May 1, and May 14 were front and centre as Haliburton County rolled the dice on options for motorized access to the Haliburton County Rail Trail.

The vote on ATV access to the Rail Trail went down to the wire, and Haliburton County Warden Murray Fearrey was called upon to break the tie at the council meeting held last Wednesday (March 28).

Fearrey was asked to cast the deciding ballot – necessary because Algonquin Highlands Reeve Carol Moffatt was away – on a by-law proposal for a May opening of the Rail Trail to four-wheelers. Councilors were called to vote on several scenarios and it came down to a ballot between a May 1 or May 14 opening day. The traditional June 1 opening date was considered but discarded early on in the process.

This year the Haliburton ATV Association (HATVA) presented council with a three-sided petition for May 1 access, the use of side-by-side four wheelers, and the offer of a \$5,000 commitment to the county for trail upkeep and dust control. The \$5,000 gift – which came without any quid pro quo provisions – was accepted gratefully by county councilors at an earlier meeting last year.

Harkening previous discussions about the contentious opening day by-law, council split on the vote with Barb Reid, Cheryl Murdoch (Minden Hills), and Suzanne Partridge

(Highlands East) voting for a May 1 ATV access date and Dave Burton (Highlands East), Liz Danielsen (Algonquin Highlands), and Bill Davis (Dysart) voting for a May 14 date.

Warden Fearrey, the Reeve of Dysart et al, broke the tie saying that for this year anyway, he had to go with the May 14 option. All councilors agreed to revisit the issue of a possible May 1 opening again next year.

Another issue regarding opening access on the trail to ATV side-by-sides was pushed to the shoulder while councilors wait for some clarification about the definition of a side-by-side, including wheelbase, dimensions, and engine specifications.

Danielsen was particularly concerned that a side-by-side ATV allocation had never been defined in the motion.

"If we carte blanche side-by-sides, it appears that we're really opening our doors to other machines," said Danielsen.

Eric Christensen, who was there as a representative of the HATVA, told council that it's an ATV that sits passengers together instead of front and back. Fearrey suggested that the issue be deferred until council receives a description, which satisfied Danielsen.

The May 1 opening discussion revolved around Christensen's insistence that the early opening would coalesce with a similar opening of the Victoria Rail Trail, which meets the Haliburton Trail in Kinmount. Reid and Murdoch argued that the May 1 opening would bring the Rail Trail into conformance with both the Victoria Trail and

the MNR, which allows ATVs access to crown land on May 1. They agreed with Christensen that it might also increase tourism possibilities in the face of a winter that could best be described as a fiscal tsunami for stakeholders in this county.

"Why are we sitting here choosing to be the odd man out," asked Reid. "They [ATVs and side-by-sides] are allowed on the Kawartha Lakes trails," said Reid. "I think we're making a big deal out of something that no one else thinks is a big deal."

Murdoch said it's time to make a change and she said that this year, with the early spring, would be an ideal opportunity to give the May 1 opening a trial run.

"We finally have to make a decision and I have no problem with a May 1 opening," said Murdoch. "How do we know what's going to happen unless we try?"

"I have heard all of the arguments and I understand that Kawartha has been doing it for years," said Fearrey. "But Northumberland is opening their trails on May 15."

Fearrey looked toward Christensen and said that he realized that the compromise to May 14 was probably not going to satisfy the HATVA members.

"Sometimes this council makes decisions and they're not always right," said Fearrey. "But I think this is a good compromise, and we can look at it again next year."

"Perhaps it's better to have one step than no steps."

Christensen maintains that Haliburton County is sending a mixed message to the ATV community.

Dysart et al

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The Legion receives their cheque from the Lions. Left to right (back row): Anne McIvor, Betty Mills, Marilyn Frost, Tina Hadley, Robert McIvor, and Gerald Hadley. Front: James Lawr, Jim Frost, and Chester Howes (Legion representative).

Local Lions donate to airplane restoration project

The efforts to restore the Royal Canadian Air Force jet on the high school grounds in Haliburton received a boost on Friday, March 30 after the Haliburton Lions donated \$500 to the project. The hefty refurbishments are expected to cost \$89,000.

"She certainly needs a little TLC [tender loving care]," said Lions member James Lawr. "It's a huge job to refurbish it all and install new lighting. Taking it down and sending it away to a specialist restorer. It's stood proud up there for years."

The Avro CF-100 plane, a model affectionately

known as the 'Canuck', has long since lost its squadron markings as well as more than a little paint from both the jet itself and the pedestal.

Through the concerted efforts of Legion members, particularly Chester Howse, the fundraising drive is getting closer to its target.

"I think they're three quarters of the way to the target. Every little [bit] helps," said Lawr.

To see if you can help, contact Chester Howse at 705-457-4593.

Dysart supports two percent tax hike

By Will Jones

During Dysart et al's regular council meeting on Monday, March 26, councilors took stock of the 2012 draft budget and agreed that a two percent rise in the tax levy would be sufficient to balance the books.

"It will integrate the cost of road reconstruction and increasing employee remuneration," said Reeve Murray Fearrey, "and two percent, I think we can live with that." The budget is yet to be finalized.

Second condo moving forward

The approval of the municipal planning department's recommendation to amend the zoning by-law from R1 to R3-12, enables the Granite View development on Mountain Street to move forward.

Dysart et al Director of Planning, Pat Martin, said that the developer had been working with neighbours to address worries following the March 5 public meeting, and that a letter from Pat Casey, which had been published in the newspapers, didn't put forward any relevant planning concerns.

"It seemed more about competition," said Martin.

Illegal dumping a problem

Photographs showing garbage piled outside the gates of the West Guildford landfill following the family day weekend have brought the problem of illegal dumping into the spotlight.

While Dysart council has toyed with surveillance cameras, councilor Susan Norcross asked, "Should the

dump be open on Family Day? Are people trying to tell us something?" She went on to say that she didn't condone dumping and didn't expect the dump to greatly increase its hours, but thought that special exceptions should perhaps be made on holidays such as this one.

Kudos to municipal staff

Haliburton Curling Club president, Rick Ashall, has commended Dysart council staff that came to the rescue when a recent charity bonspiel was threatened by flooding.

"Your staff responded quickly and most helpfully," said Ashall in a letter to council. "They removed the build up of ice and snow over the drain and steaming freed up the ice that was preventing the run-off. We greatly appreciate how quickly your staff responded and how helpful they were to help address the situation."

Council concerned about young trees

Jane Tousaw, Director of Planning for the County of Haliburton, outlined the draft shoreline tree preservation by-law with councilors and asked for their feedback.

"The by-law is not designed to prevent people from using and enjoying their property. It is designed to prevent the clear cutting of trees on the shoreline," Tousaw told councilors during a March 26 meeting.

Council agreed with a lot of what Tousaw had to say, but expressed concern that young trees – with trunk diameters of less than four inches – could be cut down.

"Where will the new growth come from when existing mature trees die?" asked councilor Dennis Casey.

Dysart et al

Councilors disagree over pay rise

Status quo for salaries after five to one vote

By Will Jones

"I believe that council should have an increase in remuneration. Our pay is considerably lower than other townships and it has not been raised in the past four years. It's time to look at increasing our salaries," said Ward Four Councilor Susan Norcross, while addressing her colleagues during discussions on the council remuneration by-law at the Monday, March 26 Dysart council meeting.

Deputy Reeve Bill Davis immediately opposed the suggestion, stating: "I think we get remunerated very well for the number of hours we put in. And, during the past year, I've heard lots of calls for help from people in much worse situations than us. I don't think we can justify an increase."

The discussion about pay rates arose due to the council's requirement to pass a by-law outlining the pay scales of councilors, along with conditions regarding expenses and the requirements to attend meetings. The by-law has to be addressed once during each term of council and it had been brought before council with remuneration set at 2011 levels.

The annual remuneration paid to Dysart's council members is as follows: Reeve - \$24,400; Deputy- Reeve - \$16,100; and councilors - \$13,800. Norcross argued that other townships have made increases to councilors' pay and that in some cases they receive as much as \$17,000, while here in Dysart councilors are paid over \$3,000 less.

Ward One Councilor Andrea Roberts came out against a raise, stating that a councilor in Cobourg, whom she knows receives only \$16,000, has to attend weekly meetings. Then, Ward Five Councilor Walt McKechnie said: "If I divide my pay cheque of about \$900 a month into the 15 hours I work on council, that's \$60 an hour. I think that is ample reward for the work we do."

Ward Two Councilor Dennis Casey then joined the fray. "I keep track of the hours I put in and I deem myself well-paid. If it was a full-time job, then I'd be complaining, but it isn't and I think what we earn is adequate."

Finally, Ward Three Councilor Steve Pogue said: "I'm very uncomfortable having this discussion about our own pay. In 2008, I proposed that our pay scale be adjusted according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), then, this kind of discussion would not have to happen."

Pogue then outlined what increases would have been received over the last four years if salaries had been linked to the CPI - 2.3 percent in 2009, 0.4 in 2010, 2.5 in 2011 and 2.0 in 2012. "We'd be earning \$14,818 now," he said, "but the idea was shelved and now we're forced to do this. Maybe we should revisit this form of externally set remuneration rate."

Following the discussion, councilors voted five to one to pass the by-law, not increasing their salaries for 2012.

Speeding: residents ask council to demand OPP enforcement

By Will Jones

Green Lake Road residents Margo Ross-Beer and Don Beer have complained to council about the constant stream of vehicles speeding down their road and the council's seeming inability to do anything about it.

In a letter dated March 12, the couple refer to their first correspondence with Dysart council about the reckless driving on Green Lake Road, which was sent in November 2009. The Beer's acknowledge the lowering of the speed limit from 50 km/h to 40 km/h, but state that it hasn't changed the habits of drivers. They go on to ask for more signs and attention from the OPP to help stop the speeders, on a road that is used often by walkers, children, and pensioners.

Ward Four Councillor Susan Norcross agreed with the letter writers and stated that the speeding drivers on the road were a menace.

"It's being used as a thoroughfare, not just your standard side road," she said. "People use it as an alternative to Hwy 118 and I have to agree with the residents and say give them

signs to see if they'll help."

Director of Public Works, Brian Nicholson, disagreed.

"It's an enforcement issue. We have complied with the Highway Traffic Act with regards to signage and people just aren't taking notice, so why would they take notice of more signs?"

Reeve Murray Fearrey agreed and asked that Deputy Reeve Bill Davis speak with the OPP and report back on their current presence on the road, and whether they could increase that presence to deter speeding motorists.

Consolidating speeding by-laws

Dysart Council currently has 12 different by-laws referring to speed limits on its roads and Nicholson brought a recommendation to council at the same meeting to consolidate them into a single by-law.

His reasoning being that the roads within the municipality service many different and challenging topographies and walkers and cyclists often use them; therefore, to ensure they are safe, the single by-law would repeal all those previous

by-laws and consolidate them into one by-law. The result would be all roads apart from four (which are 40 km/h) would have a speed limit of 50 km/h.

Reeve Murray Fearrey stated: "We can consolidate the by-laws, but we have to look at the liability of passing such a by-law and not having new signs up to inform the public of the changes. We need to check whether we need to put up new signs because if we have to do that on lots of roads it starts to become a major financial burden." Nicholson will investigate the issue and report back at the next council meeting.

Brian Nicholson
Director of Public Works
It's an enforcement issue. We have complied with the Highway Traffic Act with regards to signage and people just aren't taking notice.



Fire ravages Haliburton home

By Mark Arike

Nineteen firefighters couldn't save a home that went up in flames on Friday, March 30 in Haliburton. Firefighters from Dysart et al and Minden Hills were called to the residence, located at 1033 Meadowview Rd., at 1:07 am. They stayed on the scene and battled the fire for over six hours. The cause is unknown at this time. Dan Miller owns the residence.

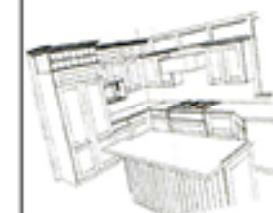
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County news

Minden master plan under construction

Company wins tender for retrofit

By Terrance Gavan

Minden Hills' search for a master plan engineering contractor is over. And now the real work begins.

Last Thursday, councilors voted to accept the bid from AECOM Canada Ltd., and now their consultants and engineers will begin the laborious task of assembling an overarching master plan dealing mainly with essential and necessary changes to Minden's downtown core.

The call for tenders on the project went out last year and four other companies placed bids for the village's master plan contract. AECOM's \$77,700 bid was the lowest. The rest of the bids came with costs ranging from \$90,000 to \$151,000 (bids including HST).

The master plan will deal with drainage, traffic flow and streetscaping, but will also deal with other revitalization concerns.

AECOM will also be tasked with looking

into the possible addition of traffic lights and another vehicle bridge across the Gull River to relieve the pressure on the one existing bridge on Bobcaygeon Rd. Council is concerned that the narrow crossing is a bottleneck that will – pending on expected growth of the village in the next decade – impede future development options.

Minden Hills' chief administrative officer (CAO) Gerry Morrison told council that AECOM is capable of handling the project, adding that their engineers and planners had previously worked on similar projects in Bancroft and Huntsville.

Morrison noted that eight of the 12 deliverables in the tender were engineering-based and the other four relate to planning. Morrison added that AECOM's strengths lie in the engineering sector, but assured councilors that the company also had strong credentials in planning and development.

Reeve Barb Reid did question Morrison on the planning aspects of the bid and Morrison assured her that AECOM could fulfill all portions of the Minden Village Master Plan.



Haliburton OPP respond to a call about the theft of copper wire on Mallard Rd.

Photo by Mark Arike

Two men charged with copper wire theft

Two Haliburton men have been charged with theft in excess of \$5,000 after copper was stolen from a property on Industrial Park Rd.

On Sunday, March 25 at approximately 4:30 pm, Haliburton Highlands OPP responded to the scene and took one suspect into custody. A second suspect had fled, but was apprehended by police a couple of days later.

Andrian Gnit, 49, of Haliburton, has been

charged with four counts of theft exceeding \$5,000. Stephen Dow, 46, of Haliburton, has been charged with four counts of theft not exceeding \$5,000 and one count of theft exceeding \$5,000.

The accused are set to appear in court on May 2 at the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden. The investigation is continuing.

OPP close book on snowmobiling season

Thousands of kilometres of Haliburton County patrolled

The snowmobile season has wrapped up in Haliburton County, and with it comes the end-of-year report from the Haliburton Highlands OPP.

This year, a total of 4,000 motorized snow vehicles were checked and 5,000 kilometres of land patrolled. Officers looked for proper licensing, insurance documentation, and valid trail permits. These officers were also on the look out for motorized snow vehicle operators that had been consuming alcohol.

As a result of these patrols, two tickets were

issued for no insurance, five tickets were issued for improper or no trail permit, 11 tickets for improper mufflers, and six tickets for disobeying signs.

There were 21 other charges laid for offences such as speeding.

Seventeen breath tests were conducted and five people were arrested for impaired driving on their snowmobiles. Eight collisions occurred, one of which was fatal. Four people damaged their snowmobiles in collisions.

Haliburton Highlands OPP were assisted by the Central Region OPP Snowmobile, ATV, and Vessel Enforcement Unit (SAVE) and the Snowmobile Trail Officer Patrol (STOP).

Practice safety this Easter long weekend

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is committed to road safety. As a driver, your actions directly impact your safety and the safety of other motorists. With the Easter Long Weekend approaching and as the weather improves, the roads get busier. Here are some important tips to remember every time you get behind the wheel of a motor vehicle:



Eyes on the road

Distracted drivers are a safety risk! It is illegal in Ontario for drivers to use any handheld communication and entertainment devices (not exclusive to cell phones) while operating a motor vehicle. The OPP have seen a decrease in the number of persons using handheld devices, but we are concerned about the large number of

drivers who continue to engage in this dangerous activity.

Seatbelts save lives

All Ontario drivers and passengers must wear a seatbelt in a properly adjusted and securely fastened manner. It's the law. Making sure your children are also secure in a properly installed child restraint is equally as important. Wearing a seatbelt properly will dramatically increase your chance of surviving a motor vehicle collision.

Obey speed limits

Speed continues to be the number one cause of motor vehicle fatalities in Ontario. Slowing down, and obeying the posted speed limit, will reduce the number of fatal crashes and serious injury collisions. Are you doing your part?

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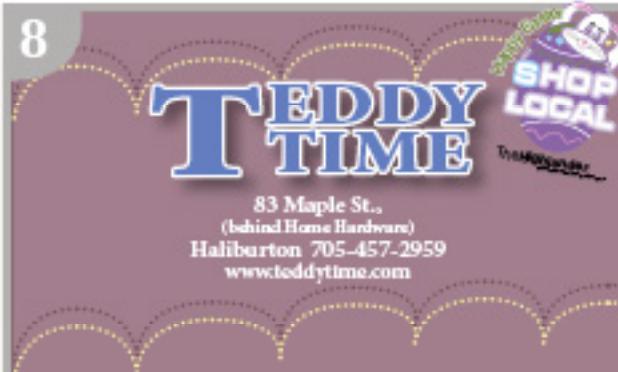
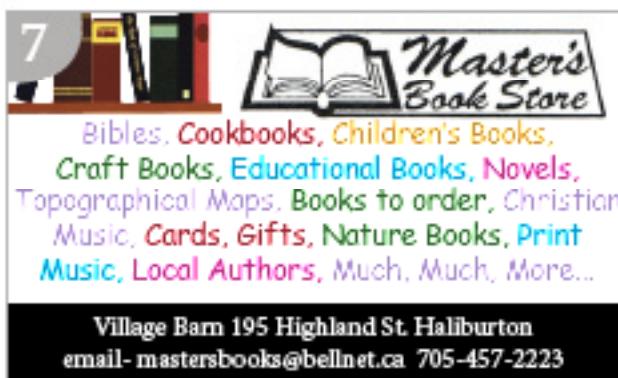


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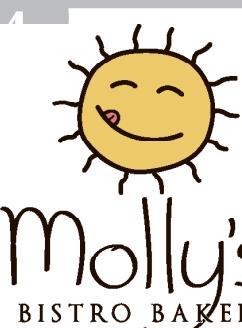
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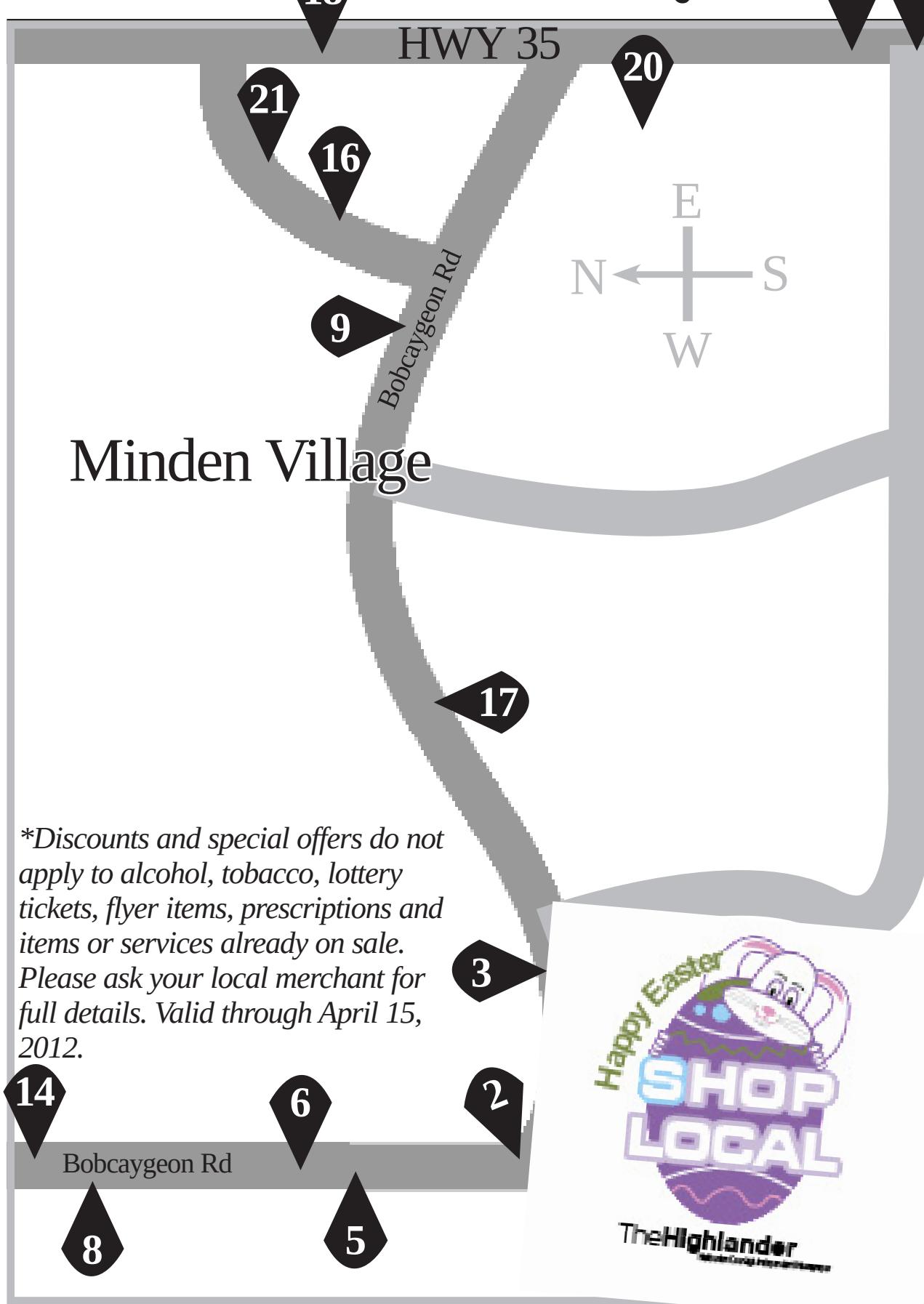
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Highlander entertainment

End of an era: iconic Molou closes for good

By Douglas Pugh

In the era of online viewing, satellite TV and microwave popcorn, the Molou stood out. Some saw it as an anachronism, a tip of the hat to a bygone age. Others saw it as a nostalgic blast from the past, hanging on while many others had long since faded and gone. What nearly all saw it as was simply 'The Molou', an iconic landmark on Highland Street highlighted by a light bulb-ringed sign.

In recent years though, since the passing of Lou Consky, the owner (the name Molou came from combining Lou's name with that of his wife Molly), had seen struggling times. It was obvious that time was heavily against its survival, despite the best efforts of volunteers and family.

As a seasonal business of any sort, economics ride on a fine line, but the increasing advent of the options above were nails being hammered stealthily into the Molou's coffin. Movie companies with business formulas designed for multiplex cinemas, rather than single screen local theatres, don't help either.

The Molou's current owner, Allan Consky, now a successful real estate agent with an architectural talent, still remembers sitting on his mother's [Molly Consky] knee while she sold tickets to moviegoers. He recalls times watching movies from the second story projection room. Change is a wrench at any time, and this one is the removal of a chunk of his and his siblings' childhood.

"It was so important for the town, a gathering place, somewhere to get the news before the days of television," said Consky. "We spent a lot of time and money on equipment but we were very much hamstrung by the movie industry and their policies. With an eight-week main season, their insistence on a two-week showing for each movie left us with the problem

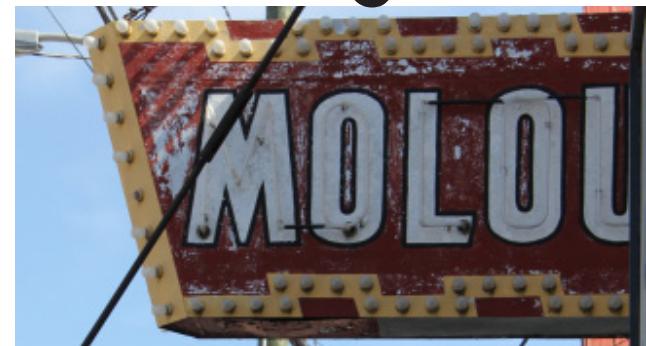
of one bad movie giving us difficulties. Two bad movies and ... well, that's half your season down the pan. We wanted to be able to show a matinee film and then one or maybe two adult films, but that wasn't how they [the movie industry] wanted things."

The iconic side of things is being retained though – the sign, the foyer and popcorn machine, the ticket booth – the character of the building, with what was possibly one of the longest single-screen theatres in the province, maintained as a link to the past. The insides however, like times, are a-changing. With extensive interior modifications to insulation, wiring and interior walls, the cinema is being split into two commercial units.

"The retention of the foyer is a link to the sentimental side of things, but also practical – the front part of the building is the only bit that's two-storey. The length of the building is due to the success of the theatre in the past, it was so busy that it had to be extended," said Consky.

You can really feel the frustration of Consky at the demise: "It's a great shame, really – one of the details that give small towns their character. If the movie companies had a heritage policy or similar, I have no doubt that 'The Molou' would still be very successful. Sixty-nine years of showing movies and then beaten by corporate policies. When Dad passed away in 2007, he took all the knowledge of maintaining the place with him; the small details were all in his head. That was a hard way to learn, from our mistakes."

The theatre ran for a couple of years with volunteers staffing it through the season. "University kids, they did a great job," said Consky, "but after a couple of years they were all moving on to full-time jobs and the like. We maybe could have run the place as a bit of a school project, but you have the same problem coming up, personnel changing every year or two."



Only the marquee remains. Photo by Mark Arike.

And family are still involved with the decision-making.

"My mother was up just a couple of weeks ago, she's still involved with all the plans and choices."

The theatre will become two commercial units – the front one already has a prospective client depending upon zoning applications, while the unit at the rear will be finished later and will then be looking for an occupant.

The memory of the friendly place stays, but gone are the rows of seats, the smell of the popcorn, the chatter and running feet of impatient kids waiting for the movie to start. Now it's contractors' toolboxes amongst the dust of construction. But this is a new direction, a new way to keep the spirit of 'The Molou' alive. From perhaps the May 24 weekend on, there will be new residents, new things happening, and time for a new show in 'The Molou'. It's somewhat more than a scrub and a polish, a lick of paint.

It's new hope for one of Haliburton's icons, which despite all the 'surgery' of renovation, will still be shining bright on Highland Street.

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Highlander health

The benefits of mindful meditation

Family health team offers self-healing program

By Erin Lynch

Mindfulness practice, inherited from the Buddhist tradition, is increasingly being employed in Western psychology to alleviate a range of mental and physical conditions. For Haliburton resident Daniela Pagliaro, it became her lifeline while receiving treatment for breast cancer in the fall of 2011.

Interested in mindful meditation for years, Pagliaro had investigated the popular mindful meditation course offered by Dr. Bill Knight in Huntsville. The necessity of driving each week and committing to a practice put the course low on her priority list. A single parent with a stressful job, Pagliaro felt she couldn't afford the time.

Cancer changed that.

"It was now or never. I realized no time was a good time. If I don't take responsibility for how I relate to life and stresses, then nothing is going to change," says Pagliaro, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in February of 2011.

Last fall, she began taking the 13-week course in Huntsville, which consisted of a two-hour weekly workshop, homework, and the commitment to a daily practice.

"I was pretty motivated. While taking the meditation course I was going to daily radiation appointments in Oshawa. I would jump out of one drive from Oshawa and then into another vehicle that was going to Huntsville," says Pagliaro, who admits she had plenty of opportunities to practice on her daily five-hour car rides.

Mindfulness is a type of meditation that involves focusing your mind on the present. To be mindful is to be aware of your thoughts and actions, without judging yourself. People do things mindlessly, going through life on automatic pilot. Being mindful is being aware of everything that is happening. Eating a raisin becomes an exercise in which you are aware of how your arm moves towards your mouth, the textures of the skin on your tongue, and the feeling of your salivating glands as they begin to work.

"On the onset, I didn't notice the benefits. We live in a society where we want quick gratification. Living a mindful life is about commitment and discipline," says Pagliaro.

It was after a day-long meditation that Pagliaro arrived at a turning point.

"I now feel calmer, more grounded. My awareness is heightened. I notice how my body and mind respond," says Pagliaro, who has a room in her home devoted to her new discipline. Pagliaro illustrates the point by recounting a time last fall when she came home from a radiation appointment only to discover her furnace was broken.



Daniela Pagliaro practices mindful meditation. Photo by Erin Lynch.

can directly benefit from the results of a mindful meditation practice, but because of their physical ailments are unable to practice the original rigorous program.

Barb Fraser, social worker and program lead for the HHFHT, says local participants learn about pain, lifestyle, nutrition, sleep deprivation, and medication in a supportive like-minded environment. To enroll in the program, individuals must receive a referral from their family doctor.

Fraser says anecdotes from participants of the program have been positive with reports of pain scores dropping after completing the program.

"It's not about decreasing pain, but how we relate to it," says Fraser. The next MBCPM program is scheduled to begin this month.

Mindful meditation is not just about learning skills, but about living life in an intentional, aware way. The key is to continue to practice.

"There is something about meditating in community," says Pagliaro.

Fortunately for Highlands' residents, there are opportunities to continue to practice within their own community. A group of people meet every other Wednesday in Carnarvon at the Zion United Church. As well, once a month, Anje Hilkens

"I noticed that I didn't freak out. I went about dealing with it calmly," says Pagliaro.

With a surge of interest over the last decade and a growing body of research, mindful meditation continues to move from the fringe to the mainstream. The ancient practice that was once only relegated to yoga journals is affirmed in conventional publications like *Chatelaine* and *Homemakers*.

Pagliaro says that the people in her course came from all walks of life. There were people who had suffered from chronic pain, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and the loss of a child. Often people don't know what else to do and are encouraged by a counselor or a doctor to explore mindful meditation.

The Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team (HHFHT) has been offering a Mindfulness-Based Chronic Pain Management (MBCPM) program since 2010. Developed and facilitated by Dr. Jackie Gardner-Nix out of Toronto, the course is facilitated through Telemedicine.

The two-way television meeting system can have as many as 60 people from four different sites taking part in the MBCPM class. Participants can see, communicate, have discussions, and do meditations together as if all in the same room.

Dr. Gardner-Nix studied under mindful medical pioneer Jon Kabat-Zinn. An American medical professor, Kabat-Zinn is renowned for integrating Zen Buddhist teachings with western science. His stress-reduction program is offered at medical centres, hospitals and health maintenance organizations around the world.

Gardner-Nix developed a program aimed directly at individuals suffering from chronic pain. These individuals

hosts a half-day meditation program at her home on Tulip Rd. in Haliburton.

"What you get out of meditation is personal and different for everyone. But what you learn is to be aware of every moment," says Hilkens, who often leads the group and has been meditating for two-and-a-half years.

Those interested in attending the group should have taken a course or regularly practiced meditation. For more information email Anje at sanghahaliburton@hotmail.com.

How to Try Mindful Meditation

1. Find a quiet and comfortable place. Sit in a chair or on the floor with your head, neck, and back straight but not stiff.
2. Try to put aside all thoughts of the past and the future and stay in the present.
3. Become aware of your breathing, focusing on the sensation of air moving in and out of your body as you breathe. Feel your belly rise and fall, let the air enter your nostrils and leave your mouth. Pay attention to the way each breath changes and is different.
4. Watch every thought come and go – whether it be a worry, fear, anxiety or hope. When thoughts enter your mind, don't ignore or suppress them, but simply note them. Remain calm and use your breathing as an anchor.

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Senior highlanders

Haliburton Grannies help turn the tide

Fundraiser on April 27 to celebrate a milestone

By Mark Arike

Canada's Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) encourages community-based organizations such as the Haliburton Grannies Group to help "turn the tide" of HIV/AIDS for children and families in Africa. Currently there are thousands of African grandmothers who are raising their orphaned grandchildren after watching their own children die of AIDS.

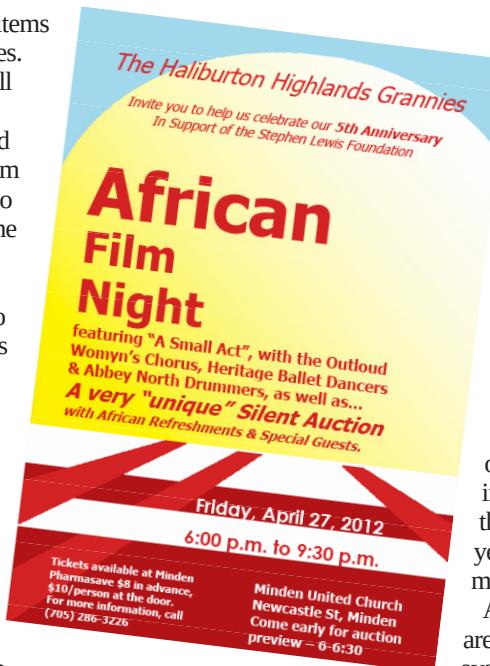
Over the past five years, the local Grannies have raised over \$42,000 through fundraising events and craft sales. And on Friday, April 27 you're invited to join the Grannies at the Minden United Church for a milestone – their fifth anniversary.

This upcoming fundraiser titled "African Film Night" will feature a documentary film, *A Small Act*. This documentary follows the story of a young Kenyan, whose life drastically changes when his education is sponsored by a Swedish stranger (for the full plot visit www.asmallact.com).

Rounding out the event will be some wonderful local entertainment, featuring the Outloud Womyn's Chorus, Heritage Ballet Dancers, and the Abbey North Drummers, as

well as a silent auction with African items donated by the globe-trotting Grannies. Refreshments with an African flair, all made by Granny members, will be available during the silent auction and live entertainment. Special guests from the area – with a special connection to the film – and representatives from the Stephen Lewis Foundation will be in attendance.

All proceeds from this event will go directly to the SLF. The SLF supports community-based organizations working to turn the tide of HIV/AIDS in Africa. Since 2003, they have funded more than 300 projects in 15 countries. These grassroots groups provide counselling and education about HIV and AIDS including care, prevention, and treatment; distribute food, medication, and other necessities; reach the sick and vulnerable through home-based health care; help orphans and vulnerable children access education and work through their grief; and support grandmothers caring for their orphaned grandchildren.



The Haliburton Highlands Grannies group was founded in October of 2006, when Mickey Bonham and Sue Reid invited a few of their friends to Reid's home after watching the televised events of the International AIDS Conference in Toronto. They saw 200 Canadian grandmothers (early members of the campaign) along with over 100 African grandmothers and witnessed their strength and resolve. These six founding members (Bonham, Reid, Cath McLean, Sandi Valentine, Jessie Pflug, and Donna Colby) told their friends about the plight of the African grandmothers and the incredible need in sub-Saharan Africa, and thus the Grannies group was born. In five years the group has grown to include 50 members.

African Film Night starts at 6 pm. Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door and are available at Pharmasave in Minden or by calling Peggy Cassils in Minden at 705-286-3226 or Lois Glende in Haliburton at 705-455-9197.

Aging Well

Spring cleaning advice

Dear Penny,

It's spring cleaning time again. Do you have any tips?

Busy Bea

Dear Bea,

Spring cleaning tips? I have several.

Wear good rubber gloves to protect your hands as you work.

Work from the back of the house to the front, and from the top of the house to the bottom, to avoid dirtying the spaces you've already cleaned.

Divide jobs into small, digestible chunks so you can completely finish what you've set out to do without getting overwhelmed.

Use long-handled equipment whenever possible, to save your back from strain.

Throw things away. When you come across something you rarely use or haven't worn in years, throw it away instead of cleaning it and saving it to be cleaned again next year.

Keep a box or big bag close by for the articles you plan to dispose of – either in a drop box or for reselling and turning trash into cash.

Instead of throwing them away, use old t-shirts as cleaning rags and save on paper towels.

Wear an apron with lots of pockets so you don't have to carry everything.

Put all your cleaning supplies in a basket or bucket for easy carrying. Between jobs, hang the rubber gloves over the side to dry.

Use earth-friendly cleaning materials whenever possible. Clean mold and mildew with straight vinegar.

Clean toilets with baking soda. Disinfect with borax.

Use equal parts olive oil and lemon juice to polish wood furniture.

Clean floors with a mix of four cups distilled white vinegar and one gallon of hot water. Add a drop of lemon oil for a nice fragrance if you wish.

Counters and tiles come clean with a mixture of two cups vinegar, one cup baking soda and four cups of water. Scour and wipe.

In a spray bottle, mix 1/4 cup vinegar and one quart of water to clean glass and mirrors.

Readers, if you have any other questions—about your mobility, your comfort, or just about getting through your day more safely and easily, I want to hear them. For real-life answers you can use, write to penny@haliburtonhighlander.ca



By Penny Brown

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Highlander education



Trent University student Kasia Janik researched "active transportation" in Haliburton and Minden since 2007.

'Mite-y' maples relatively safe – for now

By Lisa Harrison

Despite this spring's evidence of climate warming, Haliburton County's sugar maple forest has a few decades left in it yet for syrup production, but climate change is "loading the dice".

So reported keynote speaker Dr. Sean Thomas in his presentation "Beyond the Pancake – the surprisingly strange ecology of sugar maple canopies" to an estimated 100 attendees during U-Links' Celebration of Research, held on Saturday, March 24 at Fleming College's Haliburton campus. Dr. Thomas is Canada Research Chair, Forests and Environmental Change for the Faculty of Forestry at University of Toronto, and manages a permanent research site in Haliburton Forest.

The annual U-Links celebration features projects conducted by students at Trent University and other universities on behalf of municipalities, consumer groups, and more throughout Haliburton County. U-Links makes the connections and the students do the rest with guidance from professors and the requesting organization. This year's event featured 16 projects covering topics such as active transportation, shoreline ecology, hunting and fishing, and water quality.

Guest speaker MPP Laurie Scott thanked the Trillium Foundation for last year's three-year grant that supports a shared staff person for the U-Links partnership with U of T faculty working in Haliburton Forest. She spoke highly of U-Links' mandate of linking communities and universities to support

ongoing and potential new projects through research.

"As a person in politics, I love to see that, because you get direction from the community and people in the community," said Scott.

Dr. Thomas and his research team have been conducting research in Haliburton's "sea of sugar maples" since 1999. He says it's unusual to have one species make up more than half of the forest canopy as it does in the county. The team's research scope includes sugar maple predators from black bears to caterpillars and an estimated 100-plus billion mites – "So we really do have a "mite-y" forest", Dr. Thomas quipped – as well as photosynthesis levels, health differences between younger and older trees, leaf decay patterns, climate change effects, and more. (And not to worry about the mites: the good larvae eat the bad larvae and it all balances out over time.)

After May 2010's heat wave and especially given last week's record-breaking high temperatures, Dr. Thomas says everyone will "have to be thinking about climate change".

In May 2010, the team's weather station recorded 35 degrees Celsius. The sugar maples were in half to two-thirds leaf expansion when the frost hit, and the floor was carpeted. The trees resorted to a second, emergency production of leaves, thought to be reserved in case of severe caterpillar infestations. Two years of trauma generally means severe damage to tree health, "so another heat or frost would have been a

disaster – climate change is loading the dice," said Dr. Thomas. However, in 2011, the weather held more stable and the team recorded higher-than-average levels of reproduction.

In earlier decades, maple syrup was produced as far south as Virginia and North Carolina. Average winter temperatures below freezing are essential for sap production, and so rising winter temperatures have virtually eliminated the US competition, which has been good news for Canadian producers. But this year, parts of southern Ontario came close to warming above the average freezing point.

According to Dr. Thomas, Haliburton averaged -5.6 degrees Celsius this year. "Haliburton County is probably safe for sugar maple tapping for at least the next few decades, but further south in Ontario looks pretty grim."

Audience questions for the speaker following his presentation focused primarily on tapping. One of the biggest concerns Dr. Thomas cited is the province's significant reduction in programs for maple health monitoring.

"They [now] have one guy for the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Region. He has a hopeless job. My position on this is that the province has really negated its responsibility to do that... monitoring is essential."

Following the keynote address, attendees talked with the university students about their projects.

University students show off their projects

Three Trent students' independent projects

relative to rural transportation drew a strong response. The overall theme was additional public transportation and support for "active transportation" (walking, cycling, etc.), including car-sharing support to encourage and enable rural residents to travel to a community centre and use the public transportation or walk within the centre.

Kasia Janik, a fourth-year Environmental Science student, researched trends and changes in "Active Transportation Initiatives" in Haliburton and Minden since 2007. Keen to become an urban planner, the Peterborough native has been looking for opportunities to translate her schooling to that platform and U-Links director Heather Reid suggested this project.

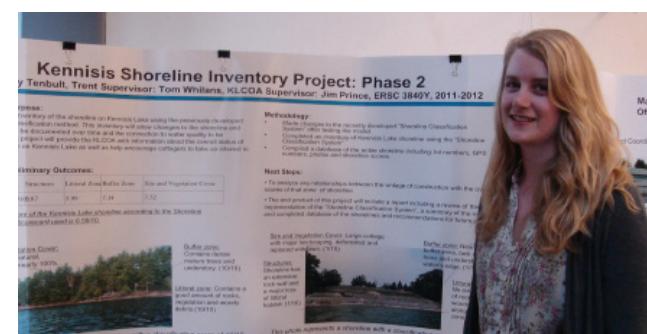
Kasia analyzed results from a survey by Haliburton County's Communities in Action (CIA) to better understand community needs. For example, responders appreciated the boardwalks and scenery but wanted to see more paved shoulders and better public transportation. She says the good and bad were about even.

"The benefit of all these [transportation-related] projects is that it's not just for the environment," Kasia summarized. "It's also better for the health of participants – walking, cycling – and the economy because people save money on gas."

For more information on U-Links and its support for social, cultural, environmental, and economic development in Haliburton County, visit www.ulinks.ca or contact Sonja, Emma, or Heather at 705-286-2411.



Left: Dr. Sean Thomas and daughters Astrid and Linden check out his speaker's gift of – what else? – maple treats. Centre: Trent University student Huong Nguyen speaks with a guest about her rural transportation needs research project. Right: Trent University student Amy Tenbult researched the Kennisis Lake shoreline.



Highlander sports

Greg Foster's carving a dream

Hal High student in Calgary for snowboarding nationals

By **Terrance Gavan**

Greg Foster boarded a plane for Calgary on Tuesday. He's at Nakiska Ski Area to compete in the Parallel Giant Slalom junior snowboarding nationals.

Foster, an 18-year old Haliburton Highlands Secondary School student, won the Kawartha, the COSSA, and the OFSAA snowboarding crowns this season, competing as a member of the always stellar Hal High Red Hawk snowboard team.

He was scheduled to train on April 4 and 5 in Nakiska, and he'll be on course facing some of the toughest racers in Canada tomorrow on Good Friday.

That's the good news.

The other side of this story concerns a local fundraising drive to support Foster's \$3,000 commitment to the Ontario snowboarding committee, which is, according to Foster's mom Lois, just shy of the goal set two weeks ago. As reported in the March 15 edition of *The Highlander*, Lois and Greg had to commit to that hefty security deposit in order to book a plane ride, coaching sessions, and hotels.

Peewee AE team demonstrate valiant effort in Ontario finals

Submitted by **Suzanne Haedicke**

The Highland Storm Peewee AE team played their best game of the year to end the season in the Ontario Finals against the Ayr Flames on Friday, March 30 in Haliburton. The Storm put up a tough battle in this do-or-die game, but were defeated 1-0 by the Flames.

The Storm team was pumped and they delivered an awesome performance against the Flames in a packed arena.

It was an exciting and scoreless first period. It was early in the second period when the Flames got a break and capitalized on it with a goal. The Storm created many scoring opportunities during the rest of the second period, but it was the Flames' solid goaltending that kept the Storm out. The clock seemed to speed up in the third period, as it didn't matter what the Storm did or how hard they tried; the puck refused to go in. The Storm pulled their goalie with just over a minute left and picked up the pace in the final seconds of the game.

Although they lost, this Peewee AE team can be applauded for a game well played, their efforts, and an excellent end to the season.

A big thank you goes to the bench staff, Bob Schmidt (coach), Jon Petrie (asst. coach), Jason Stoughton (trainer), and Tom Prentice (trainer) for all of their hard work and dedication that took the players and developed them into a true team. Thanks a bunch to the manager, Dana Manning.

Ontario's Junior PGS (Parallel Giant Slalom) team asked Foster to compete after watching his stellar performance in the All Ontario high school finals and a FIS points parallel slalom race three weeks ago at Mount St. Louis Moonstone.

Foster recently wrote a letter to the editor thanking everyone for their help and support.

"People have been really generous," says Lois, who is a volunteer ski patroller and substitute teacher. She says that she and Greg both hope that the fundraising will be a thing of the past if Greg competes well at the PGS nationals and earns a sponsorship. "We have been told by his coaches that he'll be eligible for a sponsor if he places well right away at the races in Nakiska," says Lois.

Until then, Foster is relying on the kindness of strangers; and as usual, the Haliburton Highlands community appears to be coming through. Sir Sam's ski hill manager Chris Bishop says the whole resort is behind him and Lois says she is thankful for a donation provided by Sir Sam's and many members of the Sir Sam's family where Greg works as a snowboard and ski instructor.

"I'm optimistic about his chances out west," says Lois, noting that eastern snowboarders from Tremblant and the Ontario resorts have the benefit of racing on ice throughout the snowboard season. "Western racers are not as comfortable on ice and the Ontario coaches are pretty optimistic about



Hal High student, Greg Foster. Photo by Terrance Gavan.

their chances," says Lois.

It's going to be a learning experience for the young Hal High student, who boarded a plane on his own for the first time on Tuesday. His mom is confident that once her son gets there, the Ontario team will take care of him.

And the racing?

That's up to Greg and his unique capacity for carving it up in head-to-head competition. His fierce competitive spirit has been on display throughout the year. Greg competes in rugby, wrestling, soccer, track, and snowboarding. This year he even raced for the cross country team.

"He lives for this," smiles Lois.

Badminton Hawks keep eyes on the birdie

Submitted by **Judi Paul**

The senior Red Hawk badminton team posted some great results in the first tournament of the season.

Jess Bishop and Grace Diezel finished first in ladies doubles, while Sandy Griffith and Jess Duchene placed second.

Brett Yake and Andrew Murray took first place and Tanner Hamilton and Tanner Ballantyne placed third in men's doubles.

The junior Red Hawk badminton team qualified for next week's Kawartha tournament.

Tom Paul finished first in the qualifier for men's singles, while Erin Little and Connor Marsden won and will represent Hal High in girl's doubles.

Darryl Woodley (girl's singles), Hunter Bishop and Matt O'Reilly (men's doubles), and Stephanie Walker and Del Meyers (mixed doubles) all qualified for the Kawartha's by way of their second place finishes.

Send your sports stories to mark@haliburtonhighlander.ca

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Highlander sports

Cherry collides violently with an epiphany

A well-known writer with ties to the CBC and Hockey Night in Canada tells us –confidentially – that Don Cherry is rethinking his stand on fighting in the NHL.

“Perhaps this has something to do with a clandestine meeting he had last weekend with a renowned Buddhist cleric,” says my source, who has asked for anonymity because he is currently writing a feature story for *The New York Times* about Cherry’s epiphany. He says news of the startling change in game plans came via a phone call from Cherry himself. “Deepak Chopra and I both write for the *Huffington Post* – different topics of course – and Deepak apparently told Cherry to get in touch with me after he had heard from his friend about Cherry’s decision to go public with his change of heart,” says my source.

“Right now? I’m flabbergasted, and I really don’t know how to frame this. Don told me that recent incidents in New York, where six guys all dropped their gloves in a sickeningly stereotypical staged fight, and the ongoing issue with concussions and the recent spate of enforcer suicides have convinced him, with the help of his Buddhist mentor, that fighting is, well, just plain wrong.”

I asked my insider if Cherry was actually re-evaluating his stand on fighting because of a recent rumour dispatched from CBC that the mothership intended to ditch both he and co-host Ron MacLean from the Hockey

Night in Canada telecast.

“Look, Cherry has enough bucks stashed away to retire any time he wants,” says my source. “I really think that this conversion crap is for real. I know for a fact that he’s set up a prayer rug and a statue of Buddha in a walk-in closet that he converted to a meditation room. Deepak and I have both been there and I’m not only working on the feature for the Times, but I’m obviously lobbying like hell to get the book rights on this baby.”

For the record, I did a little digging and found that Cherry’s Buddhist mentor is named Prila Sofol and he studied for 30 years at a Tibetan monastery. Sofol was charged with sedition and was chased out of Tibet in 2005 during a Chinese pogrom. Sofol was part of an intransigent group of Buddhist monks who were arguing for Tibetan self rule. There is a price on his head and a death sentence awaits him if he returns to Tibet. He studies and teaches at a small monastery on the far outskirts of trendy Toronto in a small cottage community.

“Oh, I know that Mr. Cherry is, shall we say, a bit of a wildcard,” smiles Sofol, who was born in Britain, and educated at Oxford before heading stateside where he earned his PhD in religious studies at Harvard. He was at that old Ivy League rowing club during Brian Burke’s tenure at Harvard law, but Sofol says the two did not socialize.

“Ostentatious displays of rowdy self-aggrandizing puffery and a general lack of morals never appealed to me,” smiles Sofol, squinting into the noon day sun on a Muskoka dock. “Thus I was never enamored of the law or lawyers in general. I think – although it is impolitic of me as a practicing Buddhist to say – that Shakespeare was right about barristers.

“Look,” says Sofol, suddenly serious. “Don Cherry came to me with sincerity and I know very well that you and your ilk – sportswriters and pundits – believe this to be some idle sojourn for Donald, who I call Tacka Beria. Tacka being our god of soft words and wise choices. He has eschewed the sweet science for self knowledge. And he has made me a promise to remove all vestige of violence from hockey before he passes to his next dimension.

Sofol and my inside source tell me that Cherry’s campaign against fighting in hockey begins on Saturday during his *Coach’s Corner* segment. It begins with mea culpa and ends with “Ohhhhhhhhhmmmm!” Get your popcorn ready.



By Terrance Gavan

Scott Hamilton remembers a son on Hockey Night in Canada

By Terrance Gavan

Minden’s Scott Hamilton got a phone call from CBC two weeks ago that turned his rather routine life upside down.

Scott’s son Dawson died of cancer on January 10, 2010, just 13 days before his 10th birthday. Dawson’s special relationship with Haliburton’s Matt Duchene – an NHL star with the Colorado Avalanche – was featured on an Elliott Friedman *Inside Hockey* segment on Saturday, March 24. Vancouver and Colorado met in the late HNIC game.

The four-minute video captured with shattering empathy and tenderness how Dawson and Matt met, bonded, and grew over the last three years of Dawson’s life.

It’s an important story about how sport and life come together and how unconditional love can change two lives. (The clip can be found at cbc.ca/sports/hockeynightincanada or on YouTube.)

Hamilton says he has received hundreds of emails from friends and family since the clip aired.

“They did it really quickly,” says Hamilton. “They’ve [CBC] had the idea for a while, but Matt has been hurt and they didn’t think they were going to get it done this year.”

Duchene came back early from an ankle sprain and last Saturday was Colorado’s final appearance on *Hockey Night in Canada* before this regular season wraps.

CBC made the decision to put together the segment in a hurry, as soon as they knew that Duchene would be playing.

“They didn’t talk to Matt until Friday,” says Hamilton. “I have received a pile of emails and phone calls. One of

Dawson’s nurses from Sick Kids wrote and said that we should have given her a ‘Kleenex’ warning. They [CBC] did an awesome job and I have been told that there were a lot of tears shed. It was well done.”

The segment features Scott sitting in Minden talking about Matt and Dawson and that’s followed by a clip with Scott playing hockey at Minden’s SG Nesbitt Arena under Dawson’s memorial banner.

The clip also features Dawson’s mom Heather McGann and his brother Tanner.

The video tells the story about how Matt and Dawson first met bowling at a charity event.

Scott Hamilton is happy that Matt Duchene got a chance to share part of his life with Dawson. It was important for his son, and as it turns out, it also means a lot to Duchene.

In the segment Matt shows one of his Reebok sticks inscribed with Dawson’s initials.

“It’s like I have a guardian angel with me,” says Duchene.

Scott says that there is a reason Dawson loved hockey so much. The rink was his refuge.

And it works in reverse.

“You know what,” says Hamilton on the phone from Minden on Tuesday, “I was at a celebrity bowling event and Doug Gilmour [former NHLer] gave a speech and he told us that if you wake up in the morning and you’re feeling lousy, jump in your car and take a drive down to Sick Kids. Head up to the eight floor and spend some time there with the kids. And you’ll never complain again.”

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Highlander sports



From left to right: Bethany Little, Casey Pringle, Shae MacNaull, Shyanna Smith, Hanna Reddering, Alexandra Yake, Jillian Mayhew, and Jane Symons.

Skaters finish strong

HHSS team competes at invitational in Smith Falls

Submitted by Jackie Mayhew

On Tuesday March 27, the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) figure skating team participated in the Eastern Ontario High School Figure Skating Invitational in Smiths Falls.

This event provides figure skaters in grades 9 to 12 with an opportunity to represent their high school in their chosen sport, be part of a team, and be recognized as athletes by their peers.

Twenty-four schools took part in the invitational, some with powerhouse teams in excess of 15 skaters. The seven local skaters, who skate out of the Haliburton and Minden skating clubs, participated in 28 different events as individuals, pairs, and teams during an 11-hour marathon of skating on two ice pads.

Impressive individual results were achieved by Casey Pringle, second of 22 skaters in the junior bronze solo, and Shae MacNaull,

third of 26 skaters in the preliminary solo. Jillian Mayhew, Shyanna Smith and Casey Pringle placed first in a very challenging and competitive triathlon. Bethany Little and Hanna Reddering had an impressive third place finish in dance. Alexandra Yake and other team members brought in several fourths and fifths.

As a school, HHSS finished well, ending up in the top 10 for the fourth year in a row. Quite an accomplishment; congratulations ladies!

Jackie Mayhew was the school representative who organized entries, practices, funding and was very proud to watch her team as they showcased their skills, sportsmanship, and sense of humour.

Jane Symons, a coach from the Minden skating club, volunteered her expertise for the fourth year in a row at practices, made the groups' outfits, shared the transportation, and attended the competition to coach the skaters in all of their events. We cannot thank her enough. Thanks also to Rick Cox from the Minden arena for his support in providing us with opportunities to practice.

Merry Christmas on skates in April

By Terrance Gavan

The Grinch was caught on many cameras and video recorders at Minden's SG Nesbitt Arena on Sunday, April 1.

He was chased around the rink by one of 50 or so young figure skaters gathered for the Minden Skating Club's finale. The dancers put on a fabulous show in front of a packed arena of parents, friends, and figure skating fans, who were all wowed by a simply stellar

young group of local skaters.

Carnival chairperson Sue Collings and coordinator Jane Symons put together the showcase. Choreography of the 17 individual routines was managed by Jillian Mayhew and Symons.

Mayhew, a senior at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School was rewarded with a beautiful bouquet at centre ice in the closing ceremony.

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WWW.WIENERDOGRESCUE.COM Fundraising to pay for vet costs. Drop off used cell phones, ink cartridges and digital cameras at the Haliburton Feed Store (A26)

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FARM FRESH EGGS free range local, \$3 per dozen. Duck eggs \$5 per dozen. Owl Farm, 705-935-0357 (TFN)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PREPARATION at the Haliburton Legion starting Tuesday, Feb 21 from 9 am to 2 pm; last day is April 23. At the Wilberforce Legion, starting Feb 22 from 2 pm to 3:30 pm, last day is April 25. Open to everyone. (A25)

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OBITUARIES

Donna Ibbotson

(Resident of Haliburton, Ontario)



Peacefully at Haliburton Hospital with her family by her side on Friday evening, March 30, 2012 in her 77th year. Beloved wife of Vic Ibbotson for over 57 years. Loving mother of Donna and her husband Dwight Sisson of Minden. Fondly remembered by her grandchildren Kyla and Alyssa. Donna served on the Ladies Legion Auxiliary, Haliburton Curling Club and as a volunteer at Extendicare - Haliburton. Donna and Vic have lived in the Haliburton Highlands for over 20 years.

A Remembrance Gathering

Friends are invited to call at the HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705)457-9209 on Tuesday April 3, 2012 from 4 - 7 p.m. A private interment will take place at a later date. As expressions of sympathy donations to Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family.

www.communityfuneralhomes.com



HELP WANTED

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Haliburton Community Housing Corporation which operates Echo Hills & Parklane Apts. is looking for an Administrative Assistant. This is a part time position of 50 hours per month, variable business hours Monday-Friday.

Salary range: \$15.00 - \$18.00

The successful applicant will have:

- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Excellent communication skills
- Willingness to work with seniors
- Ability to work in a team
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite
- Ability to learn other software
- Ability to work flexible hours (week days)

Please send résumé and cover letter by mail to:

Haliburton Community Housing Corporation
1 Victoria Street, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
or by email to: hchc@on.aibn.com
or by fax to: 705-457-5271

Reply by: April 20, 2012
Only candidates selected to be interviewed will be contacted.

haliburtonhousing.snappages.com

Email your classified to
heather@haliburtonhighlander.ca

Highlander events

Puzzles will return next week

EVENTS

THE ART HIVE
invites you to
the official launch and
exhibition of artwork for



*Please join us for refreshments
and to celebrate
the artists of
the Haliburton Highlands*

Saturday, April 7
11:00 a.m.

Exhibit continues thru April 22



THE ART HIVE
10239 Highway 118, Algonquin Highlands
between West Guelph and Carnarvon
OPEN FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY 10am-5:00pm
www.TheArtHive.com

EVENTS

**THOSE OTHER
MOVIES**
Thursday, April 12/12:
THE IRON LADY

Meryl Streep delivers
an Oscar winning
performance portraying

one of the 20th century's most famous and
influential women, former Prime Minister of
Great Britain Margaret Thatcher in
THE IRON LADY

Rated PG – 105 min

Coming next....

**Thursday, May 10/12: MY WEEK WITH
MARILYN** **Thursday, June 14/12: THE
ARTIST** (To be confirmed)

Saturday, May 5/12: Doc(k) Day –
documentary film festival

2 shows – 4:15 & 7:15 - Tickets \$8.00 at the
door Northern Lights Pavilion, Haliburton High
School More info: www.haliburton-movies.com

April 2012

APRIL 6-15, 2012

NOTICES:

- GOOD FRIDAY CANTATA! The combined choirs of Zion & Haliburton United Churches, under the direction of Melissa A. Stephens, present The Rose of Calvary by Joseph Martin, April 6, Carnarvon – 9 am, Haliburton – 11:15 am
- Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library AGM and Members Appreciation Afternoon, Common Room, Minden Hills Cultural Centre, April 27, 1 pm, guest speaker Ava Homa, author of Echoes from the Other Land: Stories of Modern Iranian Women. Free for members, \$5 for the public. Refreshments provided.
- SIRCH Hike for Hospice is taking place on April 28! Collect pledges individually or in a team and meet at HHSS at 10:15 am to register. 100% of funds raised stay in our community.
- Dental Screenings for children, Minden Early Years Centre, April 17, offered by the HKPR Dental Department, 10 am to 12 noon, sign up by April 13, 705-286-1770
- Dental Screenings for children in Wilberforce, April 19 at the Play and Learn, offered by the HKPR Dental Department

Thursday – 5

- Play Group, Point in Time (currently until April 30), Cardiff Elementary School, 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm, Dawn Hurd, (705) 457-5345, X311
- Cardiff Kinder Group, Point in Time (currently until April 30), Cardiff Elementary School, 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm, Dawn Hurd, (705) 457-5345, X311
- FREE Public Skating – Dysart Arena, Haliburton, 12 noon to 1:30 pm, Ray 705-457-2083, rmissio@dysartetal.ca
- Bid Euchre, Minden Community Centre, 1 pm to 4 pm, Bev, 705-286-3085

Wednesday – 11

- Pickleball, Minden Community Centre, 9 am to 12 noon, equipment supplied, bring clean court/running shoes, contact Doug, 705-489-3850
- MTO Senior Education at Community Care, call 1-800-396-4233 for more information and times
- Community Drumming/Rhythm Circle, Rails End Gallery, 7:30 pm to 9 pm, 705-457-2330

- Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild, Stanhope Community Centre, 1 pm, Quilts of Denmark Trunk Show, Pat Stover, 705-489-3751

Thursday – 12

- Play Group, Point in Time (currently until April 30), Cardiff Elementary School, 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm, Dawn Hurd, (705) 457-5345, X311
- Cardiff Kinder Group, Point in Time (currently until April 30), Cardiff Elementary School, 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm, Dawn Hurd, (705) 457-5345, X311
- FREE Public Skating – Dysart Arena, Haliburton, 12 noon to 1:30 pm, Ray 705-457-2083, rmissio@dysartetal.ca
- Bid Euchre, Minden Community Centre, 1 pm to 4 pm, Bev, 705-286-3085

Friday – 13

- MTO Senior Education at Community Care, call 1-800-396-4233 for more information and times
- Cribbage, Community Care, Haliburton, 1 pm, 705-457-2941
- Bid Euchre, Minden Community Centre, 1 pm to 4 pm, Bev, 705-286-3085

Saturday – 14

- Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild, Stanhope Community Centre, 1 pm, Kim Bolendar will share her expertise on Needles & Threads, contact Pat Stover, (705) 489-3751

Sunday – 15

- Bakar – Razzamataz Kids Shows, YMCA Camp Wanakita, 3pm, www.razzamataz.ca, www.littleredtheatre.on.ca
- Country Music Jamboree, SG Nesbitt Arena, 1-5 pm, open mic, \$7 admission, dinner provided by Minden Lioness, 5 pm, \$6

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR LOCAL LEGION?

HALIBURTON Branch 129 705-457-2571

- Wednesdays - 7 pm, Bingo

MINDEN Branch 636 - 705-286-4541, rcbranch636@hotmail.com

- Mondays - 7:30 pm, Cribbage Night
- Wednesdays - lunch time Meat Draw
- Thursdays - 7:30 pm, Euchre
- Fridays - 5 pm to 7 pm, Fish & Chips Dinner

WILBERFORCE Branch 624 - 705-448-2221, jandreamweaver@aol.com

- Friday, April 6 - 5-7 pm, Ham & Scalloped Potato Dinner
- Saturday, April 7 - 2 pm, Meat Draw; 9 pm, Karaoke
- Sunday, April 8 - 9 am to noon, LA Breakfast
- Tuesday, April 10 - 7 pm, General Meeting
- Friday, April 13 - 6 pm (NOTE TIME CHANGE), Pot Luck Dinner
- Mondays - 7 pm, Bid Euchre
- Wednesdays - 7:30 pm, Darts
- Fridays - 1:30 pm, Pool; 7 pm, Jam Session
- Sundays - 1-6 pm Free Pool, Retro Drink Prices

Email louise@haliburtonhighlander.com to have your local event advertised.

Highlander life

A Haliburton Hootenanny

Party with Places for People for affordable housing

A number of local entertainers will be bringing their talents to The Dominion Hotel stage on Saturday, April 14 in support of Places for People, a not-for-profit organization.

The Haliburton Hootenanny will feature acts such as: Albert Saxby, Sheri Hawkins, Chad Ingram, Mo and Lo, Pressure Point, Amelia and the Mayor, Mike "The Sexy Senior Citizen", "Hollar 'n Swallar", and more. Canoe FM's Mike Jaycock will host the festivities.

Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door, and an all-you-can-eat buffet is going for \$12.99. The entertainment starts at 8 pm.

For more information call 705-286-6954 or toll-free 1-888-877-6954.

THOSE OTHER MOVIES presents

DOC(K) DAY

Haliburton Documentary Film Festival

Saturday, May 5th, 2012

*Too cold and buggy for your dock?
Come sit in on ours.*

10:00 am PINK RIBBONS, INC.
The "corporatization" of breast cancer.

**1:00 pm WEST WIND:
THE VISION OF TOM THOMSON**
The mystery, the nature, and never before seen works of art.

3:00 pm THE GUANTANAMO TRAP
A provocative study of humanity and democracy.

7:00 LABOUR OF LOVE
A 44 year old Huntsville woman cycles across America.
(R, nudity, language)

SPECIAL GUESTS PRIZES

Tickets
\$8.00 /movie \$20/day
Available at the door
or at the April 12th screening of
The Iron Lady 4:15 7:15

Contact Marci 705-286-4659 or Peggy 705-286-3226

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tiff. 365 film circuit Northern Lights Performing Pavilion
www.haliburton-movies.com



From left to right: Beth O'Connor, middle, gives a big cheque to Dale Bull, chair of this year's hike, and Marilyn Rydberg, manager of hospice services.

\$2,500 donation to Hike for Hospice

By Mark Arike

On Wednesday, March 28, the RBC investment advisor presented SIRCH Community Services with a \$2,500 cheque in support of this year's Hike for Hospice.

O'Connor said that it was the fourth or fifth year that she has contributed financial support to the hike.

This year's hike will take place on Saturday, April 28 at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. Hike routes include a one-kilometre walk around the high school's track and a five-kilometre jaunt on the Head Lake trail.

Registrations begins at 10:15 am and the hike commences at 11 am. The event will include light refreshments, entertainment and awards for the most pledges collected.

All funds raised through the event will be used for the community hospice program run by SIRCH. Pledge forms are available online at www.sirch.on.ca.



Lions honour grocery store managers

Brad Park of Haliburton Foodland (centre right) and Steve Todd (centre left) of Todd's Independent were recently recognized by local Lions members. The two grocery store managers received an Honourary Life Directorship in Lions Camp Dorset, a facility that offers those requiring dialysis the opportunity to have a vacation and receive required dialysis treatments under the supervision of registered nurses. The Haliburton Lions would like to thank Park and Todd for supporting their many ventures.

Photos submitted by the Haliburton Lions Club.

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Highlander life



"The people who know about it are already coming back this year. The challenge now is to expand on those numbers and expand on the length of time they visit the market for." Mike Jaycock, marketing consultant. Photo by Will Jones.

Plans to grow farmers' market

Branding and collaboration part of new marketing strategy

By Will Jones

It's April, two-and-a-half months before the first Haliburton County Farmers' Market is due to be held, but there is already a buzz about it. The reason: the market association (HCFMA) is going on the offensive and aiming to make 2012 its best year to date.

Attendees at the HCFMA annual general meeting, held on Wednesday, March 28 at Haliburton's Fleming College campus, got the first glimpse of a brand new logo designed by Linda Middleton of Crystal Image Studio, and a marketing strategy created by Mike Jaycock. There were results from a survey conducted by Fay Martin and a report by HCFMA president Angel Taylor, which detailed how the market has doubled its annual takings from \$45,000 in 2009 to the phenomenal total of \$99,950 in 2011.

Jaycock set out the 'new way forward' for the market by unveiling the 'IncrEdible' logo. He stated that people really do like what's going on at the market.

"The people who know about it are already coming back this year," he said. "The challenge now is to expand on those numbers and expand on the length of time they visit the market for."

From Martin's survey, Jaycock highlighted that around 40 percent of visitors to the market in 2011 were year-round residents and almost 60 percent cottagers. "That's a great number of permanent residents, when you think of how the population swells in the summer," he said.

He went on to talk about what people like about the farmers' market.

"Fresh produce is at the top of the list in the survey, but after that there is a variety of ideas and wishes, which are up to you the vendors to make work," he explained. "They want an entertaining outing, interesting vendors, a sense of occasion, and unexpected benefits – all of which means you are engaging with them."

Jaycock told an anecdote about his grandfather selling potatoes at a market in England.

"His advertising, his marketing pitch, was a small cardboard sign positioned at the end of his table of potatoes. It said 'I'm George'. People came to him because they weren't buying just potatoes, they were buying George's potatoes and they liked the fact that they could chat to

George as they did it," explained Jaycock. "He always sold out, too."

Simple yet effective strategies like this will be the backbone of an initiative by vendors to maximize their sales and educate the public about local food and producers at this year's Haliburton County Farmers' market.

"Have a 30-second story about your life and produce to tell folks who visit your stall," said Jaycock. "Smile and thank them for coming to the market. These little things really go a long way to giving someone the occasion, the entertainment that they want out of a trip to the market. The next thing you know they'll be bringing their friends to meet you."

Added to the vendors' drive to engage with their customers is the philosophy that each market will be promoted as an event.

"Think of each Friday market like you would a hockey game," said Jaycock. "It's the same sport week in week out, but every game is a new event, a new spectacle."

As such, each week there will be a focus on a particular type of in-season produce, with events such as local chefs showing how to cook it differently. Outside organizations will also be invited to attend and collaborate to draw in the crowds.

"The farmers' market is one part of a larger drive within the county to promote local food," said Jaycock. "And, we are at the front line. We need to be well-prepared to present ourselves as proud producers, well-aware of the importance of what we're doing. All the while being happy to serve our customers with fresh produce and a story or two about the fascinating role that we play in the county."

The market will run every Friday afternoon from June 15 to August 31 (1-5 pm) at its Carnarvon site before switching to a new venue in Haliburton's Rotary Park from September 7 to October 15 (2-6 pm).

For more information go to the HCFMA's new blog site at haliburtoncountymarkets.wordpress.com. Or call 705-457-0991 or email incrediblehcfma@gmail.ca.

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"Relax in your hot tub - Let us do the work"



The Community Kitchen volunteers and Rotary members, left to right: Cathy McIlmurray, Lance Edwards, Ruth Fletcher, Brian Nash, Jane van Nood, Nancy Brownsberger, Kim Emmerson, John Bauman, Diane Smith, Greg Phippen, Rev. Harry Morgan and Maureen O'Hara

Community kitchen keeps on cooking

By Douglas Pugh

A \$3,000 donation from the Rotary Club of Haliburton will keep the pot bubbling for 2012 in the SIRCH Community Kitchen. Rotarians made the substantial donation on Thursday, March 29.

Members of SIRCH, a not-for-profit organization located in the Highlands, run the Haliburton Community Kitchen out of the basement of the Haliburton United Church. It's a bustling place of activity – and you can't help but feel the wonderful camaraderie between the volunteers, and the sense of pride that is prevalent.

"Four years ago we started with an idea, a talk to the Canadian Federation of University Women and some start-up cash from SIRCH itself," said SIRCH's community coordinator Nancy Brownsberger. "Suddenly we had loads of dedicated volunteers and things started snowballing."

"With local fundraising and donations we've renovated the kitchen, increased freezer storage and with help from the Rotary Club, have started training courses. Good cooking, healthy diet – combine that with local produce, fresh vegetables – and we're doing a lot of good. None of that would be possible without the support of the Rotary Club, the United Church, and local food producers and stores."

Rev. Harry Morgan of the United Church is very humble about the church's contribution.

"We just give them a little space, cover the hydro and heating. They do torture me though... with the smells of their wonderful cooking," said Morgan.

"They're a great crew," said Rotary member Kim Emmerson. "They work hard at it and it's a very worthwhile cause."

Brownsberger said that well over 1,000 meals were delivered to families in need in Haliburton County in 2011.

"We handle everything from preparation, cooking, blanching, freezing, storing, and delivery," she said.

The donation from the Rotary Club will keep the Community Kitchen funded for the year. Without it, the venture would struggle. Does this mean that they have enough volunteers and donations?

"Oh no," said Brownsberger, "we would love to expand the program, show other towns how the model works, and spread the idea."

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- \$17,000 in recent upgrades
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- Yr round access
- turn key set up



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- Year round road

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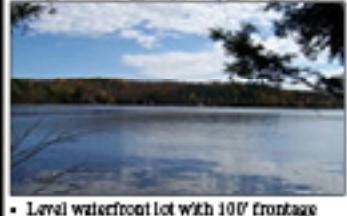
- Home or cottage
- features rounded structure
- 4 bedrooms, 2 baths
- sunken living room
- door to ceiling fireplace
- bunide & garage

Drag Lake - \$499,000



- 3 Bedrooms
- detached 2 car garage
- extensive decking and dockage
- natural shoreline
- deep water
- 3.39 acres & 187 frontage

12 Mile Lake - \$299,900



- Level waterfront lot with 100' frontage
- back lot with 645sq ft cabin
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- year round access

Glamor Lake Rd - \$179,900



- Walk to public beach / park area
- over 4 acres of land
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- master BDRM with walk-out
- cross land at back of property



Chris James
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ext 25*

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- 2,100 sq. ft. of living space
- attached 2 car garage/heated coat/boat rm
- rec room, built-in bar & dance floor
- recent upgrades

Pond - \$549,000



- The perfect getaway, great privacy
- enjoy this 82 acre property
- large 11 acre pond - canoeing & kayaking
- Colonial log home has it all
- heated garage is also Colonial log
- legal loft guest rm/studio for the artist



Hal Johnson
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Pine Lake - \$449,000

- 125 feet sand beach, 1.3 acre lot
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- Fully equipped winterized bunide
- 3 bay detached garage
- Cozy Family Room, walkouts to decks



2 Large Building lots

- Level lots, nicely wooded, very private
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- 4.76 acres - offered at \$45,000
- 0.92 acres offered at \$40,000



Diane Knupp
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Burnt River - \$249,900

- 3 bedroom, large corner lot
- Open concept living/kitchen/dining
- Custom kitchen, slate countertops
- Main floor laundry, master w/ walk in closet
- Full unfinished basement
- 2+ acres, snowmobile trails nearby



Irondale River - \$248,900

- Remodelled 3,000 sf, 3 bed/2 bath
- Guest cottage at waterfront
- 235' shoreline, great swimming
- New country kitchen, breakfast bar
- Main floor laundry, full basement
- 2.3 acres, very private backyard



Maple Lake - \$449,900

- Level double lot on 3 lake chain
- 183 ft of sand frontage
- Municipal yr round, dead end access
- Detached garage/shed
- Turn key set up



West Gifford - \$283,000

- 'Trailhead' 4+ bedroom home
- 2250 sq ft modern living
- Natural Landscape
- Walkout lower level
- Generator back up



Lorri Roberts
705-457-2414
ext 43*



Haliburton Lake - \$275,000

- Renovated 3 bedroom
- Open concept, cathedral ceiling
- 157 feet of sand and rock shoreline
- new dock, wood stove
- comes completely furnished
- turn key



Little Kennisis Lk - \$394,000

- 153 ft, south west exposure
- Panabode Log, 2 Bedroom
- completely furnished
- turn key



Dan Roxborough
705-286-1234
ext 235*



Chris & Michelle Smolarz
705-457-2414
ext 22*



Irondale River - \$399,900

- Riverfront home on 6+ acres
- Recent 24' x 24' addition & drilled well
- 50' x 32' auto bodyshop with paint booth
- High speed internet - great highway exposure
- Turn key - work from home!



Kushog Lake - \$389,900

- Stunning lot with 328 ft frontage
- very private, western exposure
- 3 bedroom, 4 season cgt.
- boathouse & 11' x 19' storage building
- separate cedar Panabode sauna
- 16' x 16' bunide with private bath



Anthony van Lieshout
705-457-2414
ext 27***



Guilford Lake - \$549,900

- 1.59 AC with 405 ft frontage
- Private lot on quiet lake
- Upgraded dock system
- Master bedroom loft with balcony
- Private setting with year round access



Harmony Rd - \$209,900

- Municipal dead end road
- 3 BDRM, 2 Washroom
- Attached garage with elevator lift
- Detached heated, insulated workshop
- Close to amenities